THE OFFICIAL MARVEL® NEWS MAGAZINE!
MARVEL® 25TH ANNIVERSARY
MARVEL AGE®
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TM
48
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ONLY 50¢
X-MEN VS. AVENGERS!
FALLEN ANGELS!
AND EVEN MORE NEWS!

Lynn Cohen presents

MARVEL AGE.

SALICRUP'S SECTION

This very issue of MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE marks this humble li'l mag's fourth anniversary! Do you believe it?! And I've been sitting in the editor's chair for three-and-a-half years now! It's about time I stood up, don't you think? But seriously, folks, we have so many new and crazy ideas cooked up to make MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE better than ever, that we're looking forward to future issues probably more than you are—since we know what's coming, and boy, are we excited!

But before I let you get to the mutant madness that awaits within this issue, I wanted to plug a couple of items I thought you might be interested in. The first is of special interest to you Golden Age Marvel fans, who remember the days when CAPTAIN AMERICA COMICS were published under the Timely Comics banner—that's what Marvel was called waaaay back then! It's a book called CHROMA: THE ART OF ALEX SCHOMBURG and it's a full-color celebration of one of the foremost talents in imaginative illustration. It features page after page of beautiful artwork by the master of crowded cover scenes! You'll love his science fiction paintings as well as his many classic covers from yesteryear! Written by art historian **Jon Gustafson**, with introductions by **Stan Lee**, **Harlan Ellison**, and **Kelly Freas**, and published by our good friends over at Father Tree Press, a division of WaRP Graphics—those wonderful folks who brought us Elfquest! 112 pages, CHROMA is a quality trade paperback for $12.95 available wherever MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE is sold or through the mail from: Father Tree Press, 5 Reno Road, Poughkeepsie, N.Y. 12603—add $2.00 for postage, and that's U.S. funds only. (Write to Father Tree Press for more information and details about the signed, limited hardcover edition.) It's a great showcase for a great artist. I highly recommend it.

As for those of you out there who haven't yet latched on to a copy of Stan Lee's BEST OF SPIDER-MAN trade paperback— what's wrong with you?! It's Spidey! By Stan! With great art by **John Romita**! **Larry Leiber**! **Fred Kida**! And more! Sheesh!

That reminds me, Stan asked me to thank all of you for writing all those nice letters welcoming back Stan's Soapbox. He said he doesn't have the time to respond to each of you personally, but he's more than eager to answer your questions in his column, so keep those cards and letters coming!

Well, I better get going before you think I'm trying to sell you something! But I will advise you not to miss next month's X-MAS issue, and after that our special 50th issue of MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE! It just won't be any fun without you!

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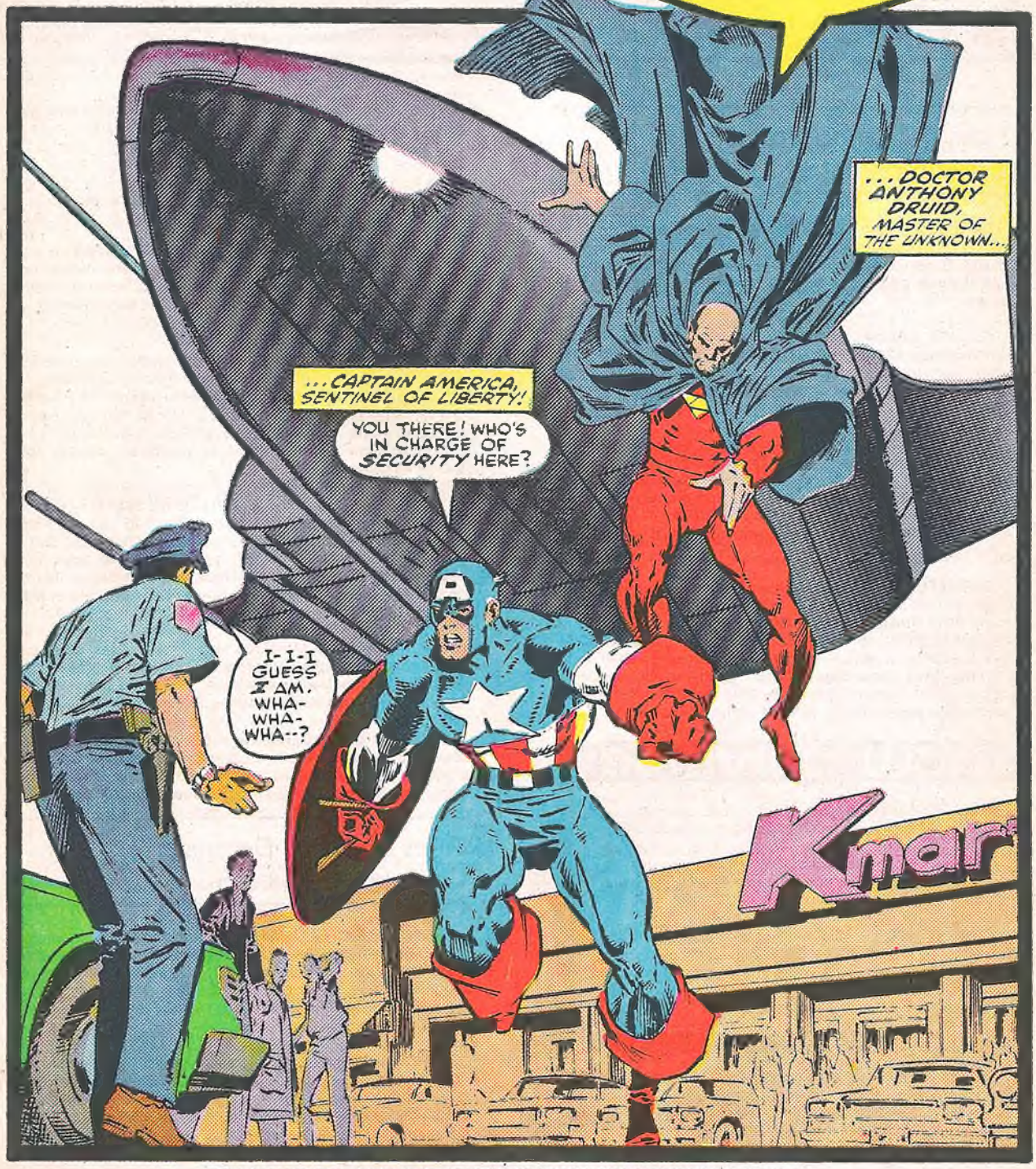
Here is a complete checklist of what's happening in all the **Marvel, Epic, Star** and **New Universe** titles bearing an **April** cover date.

A **Limited Series** is a title which will only run for a specific number of issues.
A **Graphic Novel** is an 8½" × 11" paperback edition.
A **Digest** is a 4¾" × 6⅝" paperback edition.
A **Direct Sales** title is available only at selected outlets.
Shipping Date refers to when the comics leave the printer.

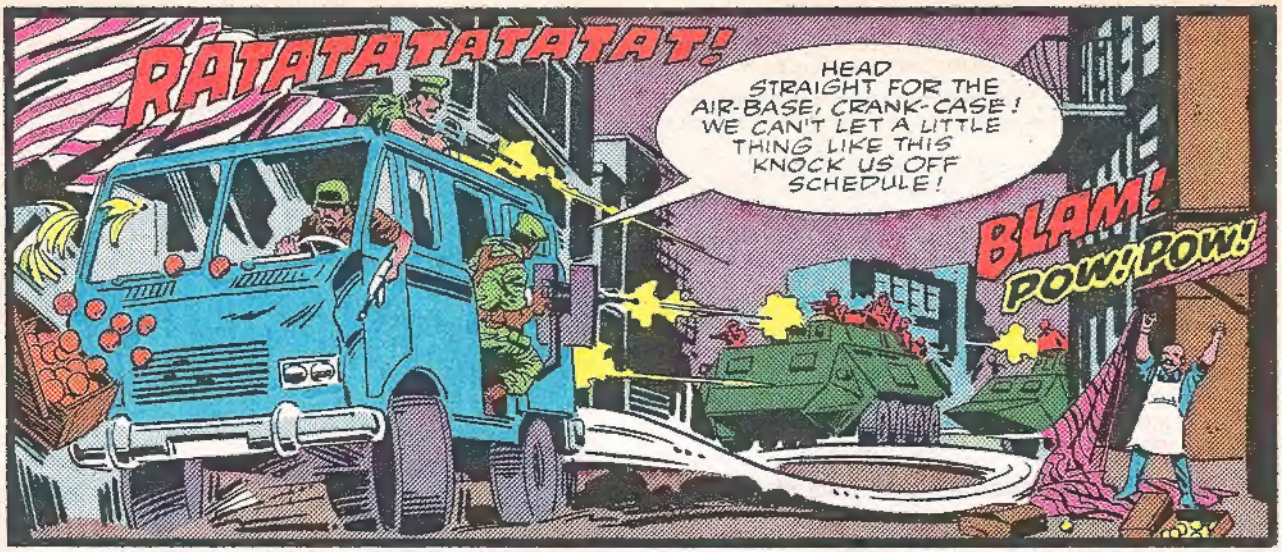
MARVEL COMING ATTRACTIONS

Will death cut down **Strikeforce: Morituri** before it even has a chance to strike back at the aliens? **Professor X** rejoins the **New Mutants** . . . but will anyone survive the final showdown with **Magus**? **Magneto's Asteroid M** creates a world of trouble in **THE X-MEN VS. THE AVENGERS Limited Series.**

That's just a hint of all the exciting things in store next month! Don't take a chance of missing out on the fun. Tell your comics shop owner that you want to reserve your favorite titles right now!


. . . DOCTOR ANTHONY DRUID, MASTER OF THE UNKNOWN. . .
. . . CAPTAIN AMERICA, SENTINEL OF LIBERTY!
YOU THERE! WHO'S IN CHARGE OF SECURITY HERE?
I-I-I GUESS I AM. WHA-WHA-WHA--?
Kmart

The Avengers drop in dramatically in THE X-MEN VS. THE AVENGERS Limited Series.


RATATATATATAT!
HEAD STRAIGHT FOR THE AIR-BASE, CRANK-CASE! WE CAN'T LET A LITTLE THING LIKE THIS KNOCK US OFF SCHEDULE!
BLAM!
POW! POW!

There's mayhem galore in this month's G.I. JOE.

G.I. JOE TM and © 1986 Hasbro, Inc.

Titles Shipping December 2
On Sale December 23

☐ **DAREDEVIL** #241—The off-the-wall villain's name is **Trixter** and he gives **Daredevil** an insane run for his money in the most unusual Christmas story this month—"Black Christmas." Written by **Ann Nocenti**, penciled by **Todd McFarlane**, and inked by **Al Williamson**. 75¢.

☐ **G.I. JOE SPECIAL MISSIONS** #4—**G.I. Joe** and Russia's famed **Oktober Guard** get locked in a deadly bidding *war* to retrieve stolen high tech equipment from a merciless Chinese agent. Scripted by **Larry Hama**, plotted and illustrated by **Herb Trimpe**. 75¢.

☐ **HUGGABUNCH** #4—Stormy skies mean **Mother Nature** and **Poppa Sturmbringer** are fighting. Or so it seems to the **Huggas** and their friend, **Jackie**, who has family problems of his own. Does family strife mean family destruction? The **Huggas** help **Jackie** find the truth in "Storm Watch." Written by **Tony Franco**, penciled by **Anna-Maria Coleman**, and inked by **Jacqueline Roettcher**. A Star comic. 75¢.

☐ **STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI** #5—Fate has struck down one member of the **Strikeforce**. Who will be the next? But even as the members of **Strikeforce: Morituri** confront the consequences of their decision to become super heroes, the rampaging alien **Horde** unleashes a new menace—**the Healers**! When another member of the **Strikeforce** is struck down in battle, Earth may find itself at the mercy of "The Healers." Written by **Peter B. Gillis**, penciled by **Brent Anderson**, and inked by **Scott Williams**. 75¢.

new universe

☐ **NIGHTMASK** #6—Why would anyone want to kidnap a crippled teen-aged girl? **Nightmask** wants to know, too—that girl is his sister! His quest to discover the truth leads him to a nightmare from which he may never escape! Written by **Roy Thomas** and illustrated by **Joe Staton**. 75¢.

☐ **PSI FORCE** #6—The weakest member of **Psi Force** is the only one strong enough to prevent the group from becoming a bunch of psi corpses. The surprising reason why is found in "Ghost of a Chance." Written by **Danny Fingeroth**, penciled by **Mark Texeira**. 75¢.

☐ **THUNDERCATS** #10—**The Thundercats** inadvertently disturb an ancient gravesite and reap the wrath of those who lie in it. "Graveyard of Memories" is written by **Gerry Conway** and penciled by **Jose Delbo**. A Star comic. 75¢.

☐ **WEST COAST AVENGERS** #19—The **West Coast Avengers** continue their desperate attempts to repair the broken time machine that continues to send them farther and farther back in time. The consequences for history reach the ultimate crisis-point when they finally land in ancient Egypt and face . . . **Rama Tut**! "From Time to Time" is written by **Steve Englehart**, penciled by **Al Milgrom** and inked by **Joe Sinnott**. 75¢.

☐ **COMET MAN (Limited Series)** #3—**Comet Man's** powers are put to the most brutal of tests when he takes on the incredible **Hulk**! Guest-starring: **Mr. Fantastic—Reed Richards**. "When the Truth is Found to be Lies" is written by **Bill Mumy** and **Miguel Ferrer** and drawn by **Kelley Jones**. Direct Sales only. $1.00.

☐ **THE NEW MUTANTS** #50—A special double-sized issue! **Professor X** returns and the **New Mutants** have their final showdown with **Magus**! Will the price of victory destroy **Illyana**? It's a war that spans the galaxy and the dimensions and forces the intervention of the dread warrior-race, **Starjammers**! "Father's Day" is written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **Jackson Guice** and inked by **John Beatty**. 48 pages. $1.25.

☐ **THE AVENGERS VS. THE X-MEN (Limited Series)** #1—When **Magneto's Asteroid M** disintegrates, **Magneto** and the **X-Men** discover how few friends and how many enemies they have. To keep **Magneto** alive, and the fragments of his one-time base out of mankind's hands, the **X-Men** must fight the **Soviet Super-Soldiers** and . . . **the Avengers**! Written by **Roger Stern**, penciled by **Marc Silvestri**, and inked by **Joe Rubinstein**. Baxter paper. $1.50.

☐ **MOONSHADOW** #12—Epic's unique fairy tale for adults concludes as **Moonshadow** completes his Journey to Awakening! Written by **J. Marc DeMatteis** and painted by **Jon J Muth**. An Epic comic. Direct sales only. Hudson paper. For Mature Readers. $1.75.

☐ **THE WEB OF SPIDER-MAN** #25—When the most powerful weapon in the universe falls to Earth, **Spider-Man** must stop at all costs a merciless alien warlord from possessing it! Written and penciled by **Larry Leiber** and inked by **Vince Colletta**. 75¢.

Titles Shipping December 9
On Sale December 30

☐ **ALPHA FLIGHT** #45—Will **Vindicator's** guilt over the death of fellow **Alpha Flight** member **Snowbird** cause her to renounce her leadership—and thus seal the doom of **Alpha Flight**? "Resurrection" also features the return of one of Alpha's most popular characters! Written by **Bill Mantlo**, penciled by **June Brigman**, and inked by **Whilce Portacio**. 75¢.

☐ **ANIMAX** #3—He's a menace even the **Motor Mutants** fear—he's **Retread**! And the Evil forces on the Dark Side of Earth have given him only one order—destroy **Animax**! Written by **Walter Simonson**, penciled by **Steve Purcell**, and inked by **Gerry Talaoc**. A Star comic. 75¢.

☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA** #328—What's the connection between the **Super Patriot** and **Unlimited Class Wrestling** and why's it so secret? **Captain America** vows to find out. The trail leads him and his new partner, **Demolition Man**, to the cunning **Power Broker**. Written by **Mark Gruenwald**, penciled by **Paul Neary**, and inked by **Vince Colletta**. 75¢.

☐ **G.I. JOE AND THE TRANSFORMERS (Limited Series)** #4—Never before have the **Decepticons** been so powerful! Never before has the fate of Mankind so hung in the balance! The peril in this finale of the Limited Series is so great that **G.I. Joe** and **the Autobots** must unite with the **Joes'** greatest enemy, **Cobra**, to stop them! Will **Cobra** do it? And if they do—what price will they demand? Written by **Mike Higgins** and illustrated by **Herb Trimpe**. 75¢.

☐ **GROO THE WANDERER** #26—**Los Brujas**, the witches who so recently bedeviled the easily befuddled **Groo** are back. What wacky witchery they've in store for the world's klutziest barbarian will have **Groo** in more trouble than ever! "Return of Los Brujas" is by **Sergio Aragones** with **Mark Evanier**. An Epic comic. 75¢.

☐ **HEATHCLIFF** #15—**Iggy** and **Heathcliff** get lost in the jungle! The next thing they know they're involved in a wacky adventure mixing wild animals, cunning jewel thieves and **Marzipan the Jungle Man** in "Bungle in the Jungle." Written by **Michael Gallagher**, penciled by **Warren Kremer**, and inked by **Jacqueline Roettcher**. A Star comic. 75¢.

new universe

☐ **KICKERS, INC.** #6—What can a guy like **Jack Magniconti** do when he's got impenetrable skin and he has to take a complete physical? Whatever he does, it better be good otherwise his—and **Kickers, Inc.'s**—secret is ruined! Written by **Howard Mackie** and drawn by **Howard Bender**. 75¢.

☐ **MARK HAZZARD: MERC** #6—The "rescue" of his best friend's daughter from a street gang turns **Mark Hazzard** into a target . . . not only of the street gang, but of his best friend, too! "Friends" is written by **Doug Murray**, penciled by **Mark Beachum**, and inked by **Gray Morrow**. 75¢.

☐ **FALLEN ANGELS (Limited Series)** #1—Does the **New Mutant, Sunspot**, have what it takes to be a hero? He doesn't think so. The crisis he suffers causes him, **Warlock**, and the Manhattan street mutant called **Chance**, to learn the gritty truths about life as **Fallen Angels**. Written by **Jo Duffy**, penciled by **Kerry Gammill** and inked by **Tom Palmer**. 75¢.

☐ **STRANGE TALES** #1—**Doctor Strange! Cloak and Dagger!** Two series now in one monthly title! **Topaz** forces **Doc Strange** to make a fateful decision that produces some very unexpected results. Written by **Peter B. Gillis**, penciled by **Chris Warner**, and inked by **Randy Emberlin**.

Dagger at last meets her father in India and discovers that he is the leader of a cult which possesses the ability to harness her light powers! Will **Dagger** stay with her father—and will **Cloak** be rejected by all? Written by **Bill Mantlo** and illustrated by **Bret Blevins**. 75¢.

☐ **POWER PACK** #29—**Alex Power** has a rough day as he deals with the likes of **Spider-Man** and **the Hobgoblin**! Written by **Louise Simonson**, penciled by **Jon Bogdanove**, and inked by **Dan Green**. 75¢.

☐ **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN** #287—In the midst of the all-out Gang War, **Spidey** battles the Man Without Fear—**Daredevil**! Written by **Jim Owsley**, penciled by **Erik Larson**, and inked by **Art Nichols**. 75¢.

☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR VS. THE X-MEN (Limited Series)** #3—When genius inventor **Reed Richards**—**Mr. Fantastic** of the **Fantastic Four**—discovers **Doctor Doom's** plan to cure **Shadowcat** of her ghostly existence, why does he try to stop his arch foe? Is it professional jealousy? Or is it something much worse? "By the Soul's Darkest Light" is written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **Jon Bogdanove**, and inked by **Terry Austin**. 75¢.

☐ **MEPHISTO VS. THE FANTASTIC FOUR (Limited Series)** #1—**Mephisto** spirits the **Fantastic Four** to his infernal realm. For the **FF** to leave, they must surrender the body and soul of **Franklin Richards**. "Give the Devil his Due" is written by **Al Milgrom**, penciled by **John Buscema** and inked by **Bob Wiacek**. Baxter paper. $1.50.

☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN** #134—**Conan** and three of the most treacherous warriors any man could meet band together to find a fabled fortune. But when greed overwhelms the uneasy alliance, will even **Conan** find himself a victim of the curse on "The Seventh Isle of Doom"? Written by **Larry Yakata** and drawn by **Andy Kubert**. Cover by **Joe Jusko**. A Marvel Magazine. For Mature Readers. $1.50.

☐ **STAR COMICS MAGAZINE** #3—Star's most popular stories about **Heathcliff, Muppet Babies**, and the **Ewoks** are re-presented in this laugh-a-minute anthology series. Cat lovers and haters everywhere will howl anew over **Heathcliff's** misadventures in "A Day at the Circus" and "Heathcliff Goes Hollywood." **Muppet Babies** maniacs find their favorites in a zany race to the stars in "The Great Space Adventure." and **Ewoks** enthusiasts find **Wicket** and his friends in a thrilling "Flight to Danger." A Marvel digest. 64 pages. $1.50.

☐ **THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS INDEX TO THE AVENGERS** #1—How did the **Avengers** become one of Marvel's greatest super hero teams? Marvel's acclaimed series guide reveals the full story as only it can! Complete story and cover credits, concise story synopses, full-color cover reproductions of each issue and a nifty new wraparound cover! For Avengers fans old and new and for Marvel saga buffs everywhere, this series is for you! Compiled by **George Olshevsky**. 48 pages. Direct Sales only. Baxter paper. $2.95.

Titles Shipping December 16
On Sale January 6

☐ **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE** #49—You've seen the television news reports, read the comic book, now find out the behind the scenes truth of Marvel's latest success **THE 'NAM** in a special interview with writer **Doug Murray**. Plus: **Groo the Wanderer**—he's klutzy, he's clumsy and this one-barbarian walking disaster has become so popular that he's being killed off in his first Graphic Novel! And if you think *that's* crazy, wait until you find out what *else* is going to happen to **Groo** as **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE** reports on the series, the new Graphic Novel, and creator **Sergio Aragones** and his side-kick **Mark Evanier**. Also: Stan's Soapbox, Mutant Reports, Hembeck's Page and all our other regular features! Direct Sales only. 50¢.

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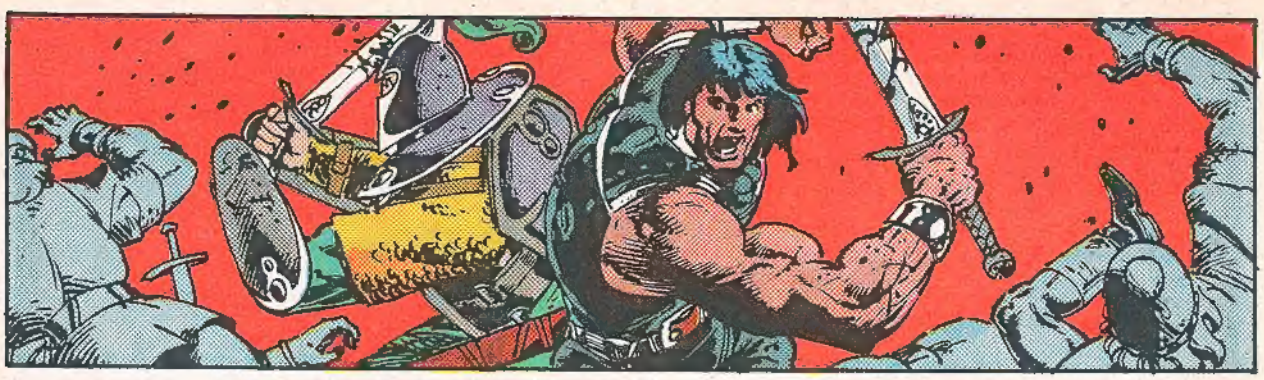
Animax roars into action!



Conan is in for the fight of his life . . .

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☐ **THE AVENGERS** #278—**The Avengers** gain two new members! The **Wasp** makes an astonishing announcement! And the bludgeoning **Tyrak** tears apart **the Avengers'** new home, Hydrobase! And that's just for *starters!* "Pressure" is written by **Roger Stern**, penciled by **John Buscema**, and inked by **Tom Palmer**. 75¢.

☐ **THE UNCANNY X-MEN** #216—**Storm** and **Wolverine's** war of survival against the super heroes of the past threatens to destroy not just their lives—but also their reason to live in "Crucible." Written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **Jackson Guice** and inked by **Dan Green**. 75¢.

new universe

☐ **D.P. 7 #6**—Will **D.P. 7** do to themselves what the **Clinic** cannot? Unless **D.P. 7** can resolve their differences with themselves, **D.P. 7** will be no more! Plus: introducing the **Sweat Shop**—the meanest bunch of guys in the New Universe. "Split-Up" is written by **Mark Gruenwald**, penciled by **Paul Ryan** and inked by **Romeo Tanghal**. 75¢.

☐ **JUSTICE #6**—Designer drug manufacturers. The police can't jail them. The courts can't stop them. But no one is immune from **Justice**! Written and penciled by **Geof Isherwood** and inked by **Vince Colletta**. 75¢.

☐ **G.I. JOE** #58—It's **Cobra's** latest mass-produced weapon to promote world-wide terror! It's the **G.I. Joe's** most important target! It's the Terror Drome! And only two **Joes** possess the skill to destroy it! Wait until you see who those two **Joes** are and what they must do to wreck it! "Desperate Moves" is written by **Larry Hama**, penciled by **Rod Whigham** and inked by **Andy Mushynsky**. 75¢.

☐ **THE INCREDIBLE HULK** #330—He's got the intelligence to rule the world—all he needs is the power to enforce it. He's the alien known only as **Head**. The power he's about to seize is the power of the **Hulk**! Will **Head** become the first Emperor of Earth? "Head Games" is written by **Al Milgrom** and penciled by **Todd McFarlane**. 75¢.

☐ **MARVEL TALES** #198—**Spider-Man** finds himself trapped in the middle of a martial arts vendetta in "If Death Be My Destiny!" Guest-starring **Iron Fist** and the **Daughters of the Dragon**. A classic tale reprinted from **MARVEL TEAM-UP** #64, written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **John Byrne**, and inked by **Dave Hunt**. 75¢.

☐ **THE 'NAM** #5—Frontline heroism contrasts with base camp corruption when **Ed Marks** embarks on his first patrol as a corporal, and his superior, **Sgt. Polkow**, confronts the base's corrupt Master Sergeant in "Humpin' the Boonies." Written by **Doug Murray**, penciled by **Mike Golden**, and inked by **Armando Gil**. 75¢.

☐ **CONAN THE BARBARIAN** #193—Fiction's greatest barbarian hero has a new exciting look! The Bullpen's going wild over regular penciler **Val Semeiks** and you will, too! As for **Conan, the Devourer of Souls** is launching his greatest attack against him! How can **Conan** battle the unceasing fury of a demon-goaded storm? Written by **Jim Owsley** and inked by **Geof Isherwood**. 75¢.

☐ **THE MARVEL SAGA** #17—Awesome is the only word that can be used to describe this issue of the linear history of the Marvel Universe! The original **X-Men** meet and battle for the first time **the Avengers**! And hard on the heels of that titanic struggle the **X-Men** journey to the Savage Land where they meet the jungle lord **Ka-Zar**! As if that weren't enough mutant mayhem, wait until you see what happens when the **X-Men** meet the **Juggernaut**! *And* we see the end of the original **Brotherhood of Evil Mutants**! **The Fantastic Four** battle **Diablo** and the incredible **Dragon Man**. When the **FF** return to their home, the Baxter Building, they suffer a sneak attack by the merciless **Frightful Four**. What is the secret behind **Frightful Four** member **Medusa's** powers? The answer lies in the incredible origin of the **Inhumans**! And elsewhere in the Marvel Universe, **Loki's** evil plotting transforms convict **Crusher Creel** into the annihilating **Absorbing Man** whose first target for destruction is **Thor**! 32 pages. No ads. $1.00.

☐ **ELEKTRA: ASSASSIN (Limited Series)** #7—The **Beast**-possessed **Ken Wind** is about to win the Presidency of the United States. **Elektra** and **Garrett** are out to kill him before he does. The team of **Perry** and **Chuck** are out to stop them. And **Chastity** and **S.H.I.E.L.D.** are out to get everyone in "Election Night." Written by **Frank Miller** and painted by **Bill Sienkiewicz**. An Epic comic. Direct Sales only. Hudson paper. For Mature Readers. $1.50.

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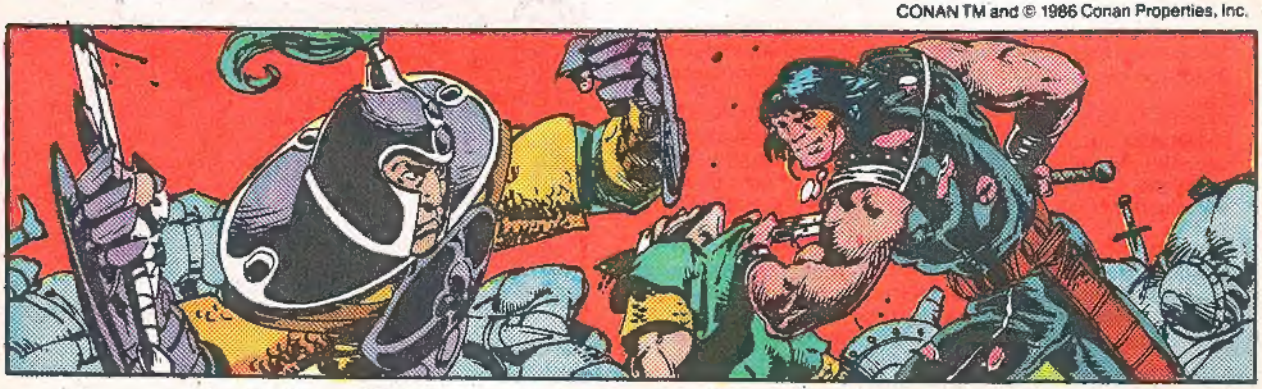

. . . in CONAN THE BARBARIAN drawn by the new regular art team of Val Semeiks and Geof. Isherwood.

Storm is imprisoned by super heroes of the past in X-MEN.

☐ **THE DEATH OF GROO** Graphic Novel—Not a dream, not an imaginary story! Because all his friends demanded it, **Groo** dies! But because **Groo** never gets anything right, not even this will mean the end of **Groo**. "The Death of Groo" is written by **Mark Evanier** and illustrated by **Sergio Aragones**. 64 pages. $5.95.

Titles Shipping December 23 On Sale January 13

☐ **X-FACTOR** #15—for **Angel** the man to live, **Angel** the mutant must be destroyed! Written by **Louise Simonson**, penciled by **Walter Simonson**, and inked by **Bob Wiacek**. 75¢.

☐ **DROIDS** #7—What was the **Droids'** side of the famous cantina sequence in the *Star Wars* movie? The fascinating answer lies in "Darth Vader Attacks." Written by **Dave Manak**, penciled by **Ernie Colon**, and inked by **Al Williamson**. A Star comic. 75¢.

☐ **ELFQUEST** #21—The devastating truth about the **Wolfriders'** heritage is revealed! Will this mean **Winnowill's** finally won the war of nerves against **Cutter** and the **Wolfriders**? "Secret of the Wolfriders" is written by **Wendy** and **Richard Pini** and drawn by **Wendy Pini**. An Epic comic. 75¢.

☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR** #301—One of the happiest moments in the FF's history suddenly turns into tragedy when **Franklin** is kidnaped by **the Thinker** and **the Wizard**! "Dark Dreams" is written by **Roger Stern**, penciled by **John Buscema** and inked by **Sal Buscema**. 75¢.

☐ **IRON MAN** #217—Super-sophisticated technology clashes with *ultimate* sophisticated technology when **Iron Man** battles the unstoppable **Adap-Ter**! Written by **David Michelinie**, penciled by **Mark Bright** and inked by **Bob Layton**. 75¢.

☐ **PETER PARKER THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN** #125—What secrets imprinted on a computer disk are so important that both **Spider-Woman** and the rampaging **Wrecking Crew** want them? And when **Spider-Man** gets involved, that's when the mayhem really begins! "Wrecking Havoc" is written by **Danny Fingeroth** and penciled by **Jim Mooney**. 75¢.

new universe

☐ **SPITFIRE AND THE TROUBLESHOOTERS** #7—The **Troubleshooters** race to save the life of the British Prime Minister! Written by **Gerry Conway** and illustrated by **Herb Trimpe**. 75¢.

☐ **STARBRAND** #7—**Starbrand** must battle the Ancient Alien who gave him his incredible powers! A shocker! Written by **Jim Shooter**, penciled by **John Romita Jr.**, and inked by **Al Williamson**. 75¢.

☐ **POPPLES** #3—A **Popple** without a problem to solve is a sad **Popple** indeed. Nothing makes the **Popples** happier than solving someone's cares and chasing away his woes. Is there no trouble too big for the **Popples** to tackle? The **Popples** are certain there isn't, but nothing in their past has prepared them for what's about to happen to them now! Written by **Stan Kay**, penciled by **John Costanza**, and inked by **Jacqueline Roettcher**. A Star comic. 75¢.

☐ **THOR** #378—The **Frost Giants** attack Asgard, and their first target is **Loki's** realm! All that stands between the **Frost Giants** and victory is the crippled **Thor**! Written by **Walter Simonson** and illustrated by **Sal Buscema**. 75¢.

☐ **TOP DOG** #13—A glitch in the Brainstrain computer throws **Top Dog's** friend, **Joey**, into the future where he discovers that his adult self has disappeared! Somehow **Joey** must get the aged **Top Dog** of the future to come out of retirement and solve the mystery of his lost self in "Front to the Future." Written by **Dave Manak**, penciled by **Warren Kremer**, and inked by **Jacqueline Roettcher**. A Star comic. 75¢.

☐ **THE TRANSFORMERS** #27—Will the **Autobots** be able to survive without **Optimus Prime**? The answer could be no! The struggle for leadership has split the **Autobot** ranks. And the **Decepticons** are out to destroy the fragments! Written by **Bob Budiansky**, penciled by **Don Perlin**, and inked by **Ian Akin** and **Brian Garvey**. Cover by **Herb Trimpe**. 75¢.

☐ **CLASSIC X-MEN** #8—The **New X-Men** battle the **Old X-Men**! But are their foes really **Professor X's** former students, or a menace far worse? "Greater Love Hath No X-Man" is reprinted from X-MEN #100 and written by **Chris Claremont** and drawn by **Dave Cockrum**. Plus: a special additional tale written by **Chris Claremont** and illustrated by **John Bolton**. 32 pages. No ads. $1.00.

☐ **ALIEN LEGION** #18—The Legionnaire **Durge** has been tried for his crimes and found guilty. The sentence: immediate lobotomy! With **Durge** about to go under the knife, what can his good buddy, **Dun**, do to save him? Written by **Alan Zelenetz**, penciled by **Larry Stroman** and inked by **Randy Emberlin**. An Epic comic. Direct sales only. Baxter paper. $1.75.

☐ **G.I. JOE COMICS MAGAZINE** #3—The classic adventures of America's top anti-terrorist strike force continue with the reprinting of the most cataclysmic encounter between **G.I. Joe** and the **Oktober Guard** from **G.I. JOE** #'s 6 and 7. Written by **Larry Hama**, penciled by **Herb Trimpe**, and inked by **Jack Abel** and **Chic Stone**. Plus: **Cobra** sets its terrorist sights on the Space Shuttle. What can **G.I. Joe** do to stop the Shuttle's destruction? The fast-paced race-against-time tale from G.I. JOE #8 is written and illustrated by **Herb Trimpe**. A Marvel digest. 64 pages. $1.50.

☐ **STEELGRIP STARKEY (Limited Series)** #6—What a finale! The secret of **Steelgrip's** amazing power tool and the truth behind **Mr. Pilgrim** are revealed! What will **Steelgrip** do once he knows the facts? "Steelgrip's Atomic Powerplay" is written and penciled by **Alan Weiss** and inked by **Joe Rubinstein**. An Epic comic. Direct sales only. Baxter paper. $1.75.

MORE COMING ATTRACTIONS

Titles Shipping January

DAREDEVIL #242—by **Nocenti, Williams,** and **Williamson.**
DEFENDERS OF THE EARTH #3—by **Higgins, Saviuk,** and **Fredericks.**
MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE #7—by **Carlin, Wilson,** and **Bulanadi.**
STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI #6—by **Gillis** and **Anderson.**
NEW MUTANTS #51—by **Claremont, Guice,** and **Beatty.**
NIGHTMASK #7
PETER PORKER THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-HAM #15—by **Carlin, Albelo,** and **Fournier.**
PSI-FORCE #7
THUNDERCATS #11—by **Conway, Delbo,** and **Gordon.**
WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #26
WEST COAST AVENGERS #20—by **Englehart, Milgrom,** and **Sinnott.**
COMET MAN #4—by **Mumy, Ferrer,** and **Jones.**
CONAN THE KING #40—by **Kraar, Hunt,** and **Nichols.**
THE AVENGERS VS. THE X-MEN #2—by **Stern, Silvestri,** and **Rubinstein.**
SWORDS OF THE SWASHBUCKLERS #12—by **Mantlo, Doran,** and **Villamonte.**
ALPHA FLIGHT #46—by **Mantlo, Brigman,** and **Portacio.**
CAPTAIN AMERICA #329—by **Gruenwald** and **Neary.**
CHUCK NORRIS KARATE KOMMANDOS #3—by **Duffy, Ditko,** and **Esposito.**
EWOKS #13—by **Carlin, Kremer,** and **D'Agostino.**
FALLEN ANGELS #2—by **Duffy, Gammill,** and **Palmer.**
GROO THE WANDERER #27—by **Aragones** with **Evanier.**
KICKERS, INC. #7
MARK HAZZARD: MERC #7—by **Kanigher** and **Chan.**
AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #288
STRANGE TALES #2—by **Gillis, Warner, Emberlin, Mantlo,** and **Blevins.**
THE FANTASTIC FOUR VS. THE X-MEN #4—by **Claremont, Bogdanove,** and **Austin.**
MEPHISTO VS. THE FANTASTIC FOUR #2—by **Milgrom, J. Buscema,** and **Wiacek.**
SPIDER-MAN COMICS MAGAZINE #3
SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #135
THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS INDEX TO THE X-MEN #2—compiled by **Olshevsky.**
MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #50
AVENGERS #279—by **Stern, J. Buscema,** and **Palmer.**
CONAN THE BARBARIAN #194—by **Owsley, Semeiks,** and **Isherwood.**
D.P. 7 #7—by **Gruenwald** and **Ryan.**
G.I. JOE #59—by **Hama, Whigham,** and **Mushynsky.**
THE INCREDIBLE HULK #331
JUSTICE #7
MARVEL TALES #199
MUPPET BABIES #13—by **Kay** and **M. Severin.**
THE UNCANNY X-MEN #217—by **Claremont, Guice,** and **Green.**
MARVEL SAGA #18—by **Sanderson.**
ELEKTRA: ASSASSIN #8—by **Miller** and **Sienkiewicz.**
MARVEL FANFARE #32
CARE BEARS #10
ELFQUEST #22—by **W.** and **R. Pini.**
FANTASTIC FOUR #302—by **Stern, J. Buscema,** and **S. Buscema.**
INHUMANOIDS #3—by **Salicrup, Delbo,** and **Del Beato.**
IRON MAN #218—by **Michelinie, Bright,** and **Layton.**
PETER PARKER THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #126
SPITFIRE AND THE TROUBLESHOOTERS #8
STAR BRAND #8
THOR #379—by **W. Simonson** and **S. Buscema.**
THE TRANSFORMERS #28—by **Budiansky, Perlin, Akin,** and **Garvey.**
X-FACTOR #16—by **L. Simonson, W. Simonson,** and **Wiacek.**
CLASSIC X-MEN #9—by **Claremont, Cockrum,** and **Bolton.**
THE TRANSFORMERS COMICS MAGAZINE #3
THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK TO THE MARVEL UNIVERSE #3 (Trade Paperback)

Titles Shipping February

DAREDEVIL #243—by **Nocenti, McFarlane,** and **Williamson.**
G.I. JOE SPECIAL MISSIONS #5—by **Hama** and **Trimpe.**
HUGGA BUNCH #5—by **Franco, Coleman,** and **Roettcher.**
STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI #7—by **Gillis** and **Anderson.**
NIGHTMASK #8
PSI FORCE #8
THUNDERCATS #12—by **Conway, Delbo,** and **Gordon.**

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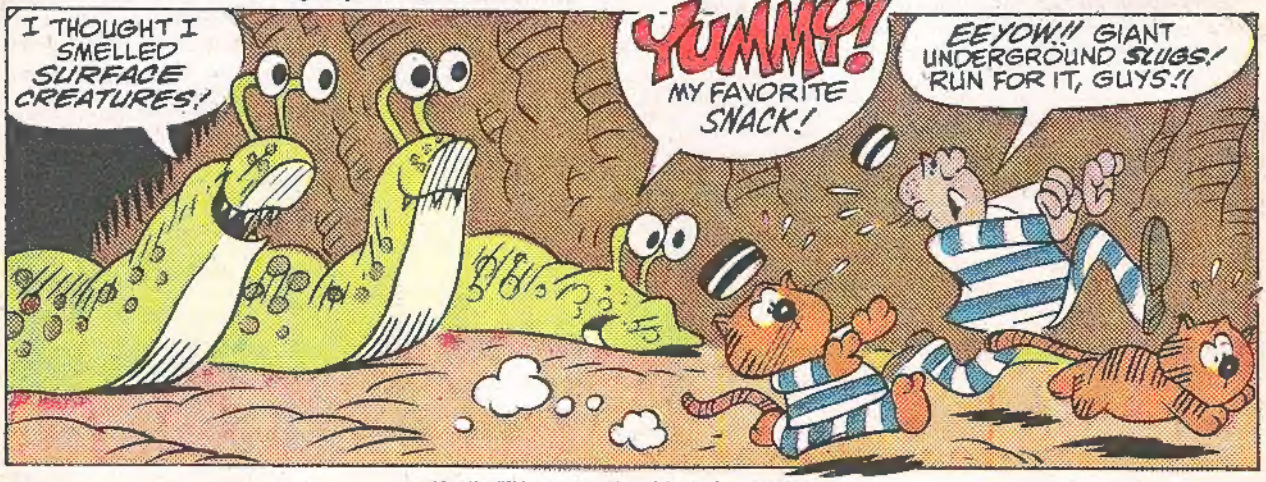
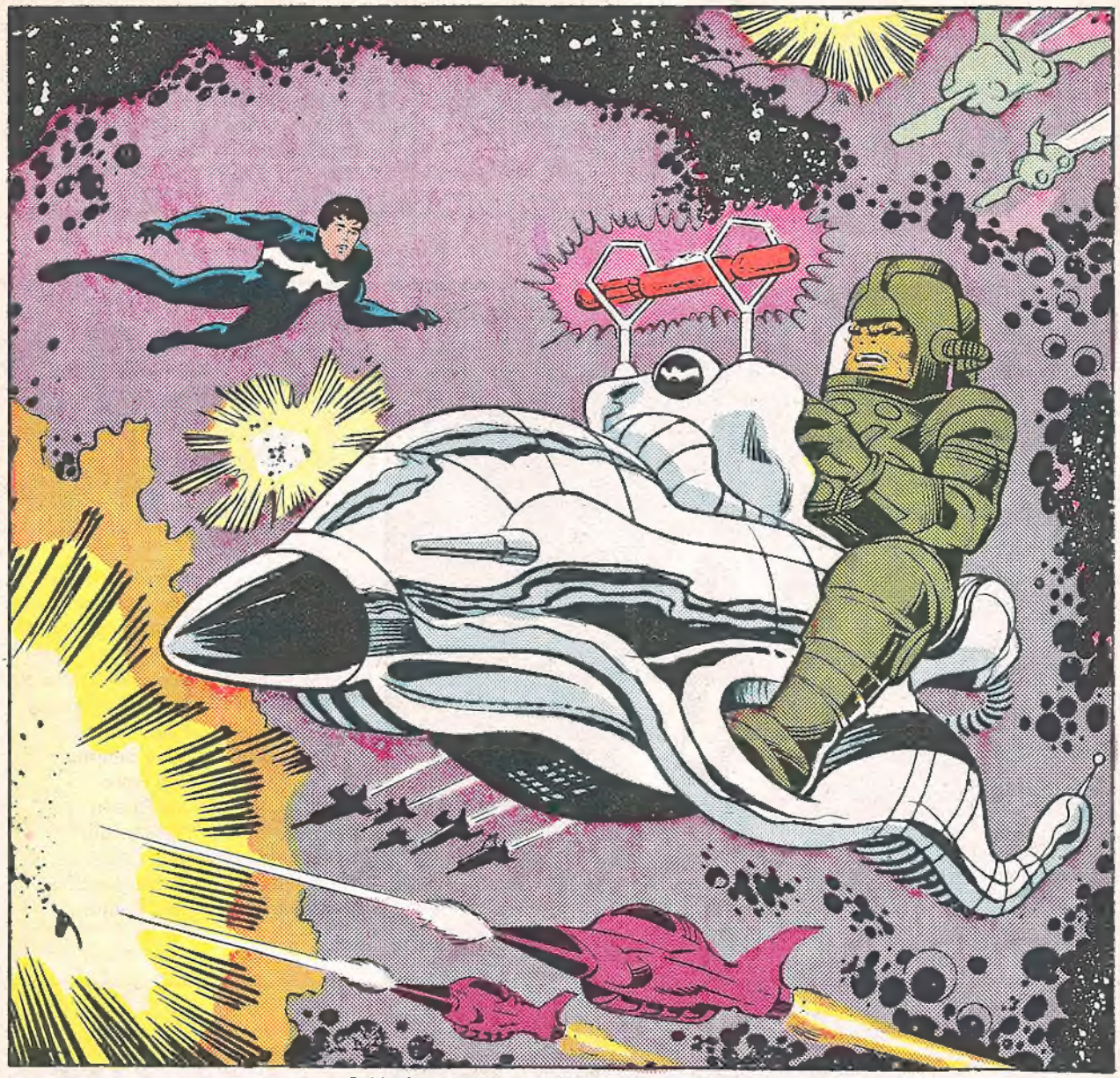


Heathcliff becomes the object of a slug-feast.



Spider-Man gets a premonition of space-faring danger.

WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #27
WEST COAST AVENGERS #21—by **Englehart, Milgrom,** and **Sinnott.**
COMET MAN #3—by **Mumy, Ferrer,** and **Jones.**
THE AVENGERS VS. THE X-MEN #3—by **Stern, Silvestri,** and **Rubinstein.**
ALPHA FLIGHT #47—by **Mantlo, Brigman,** and **Portacio.**
ANIMAX #4—by **W. Simonson, Purcell,** and **Talaoc.**
CAPTAIN AMERICA #330—by **Gruenwald** and **Neary.**
FALLEN ANGELS #3—by **Duffy, Gammill,** and **Palmer.**
GROO THE WANDERER #28—by **Aragones** with **Evanier.**
HEATHCLIFF #16—by **Gallagher, Kremer,** and **Roettcher.**
KICKERS, INC. #8
MARK HAZZARD: MERC #8—by **Kanigher** and **Chan.**
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #289
STRANGE TALES #3—by **Gillis, Warner, Emberlin, Mantlo, Stroman,** and **Emberlin.**
POWER PACK #30—by **L. Simonson, W. Simonson,** and **Wiacek.**
MEPHISTO VS. THE FANTASTIC FOUR #3—by **Milgrom, J. Buscema,** and **Wiacek.**
SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #136
STAR COMICS MAGAZINE #4
THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS INDEX TO THE AVENGERS #2—compiled by **Olshevsky.**
MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #51
THE AVENGERS #280—by **Stern, J. Buscema,** and **Palmer.**
CONAN THE BARBARIAN #195—by **Owsley, Semeiks,** and **Isherwood.**
D.P. 7 #8—by **Gruenwald** and **Ryan.**
G.I. JOE #60—by **Hama, Whigham,** and **Mushynsky.**
THE INCREDIBLE HULK #332
JUSTICE #8
MARVEL TALES #200
THE 'NAM #7—by **Murray, Golden,** and **Gil.**
THE UNCANNY X-MEN #218—by **Claremont, Guice,** and **Green.**
THE MARVEL SAGA #19—by **Sanderson.**
DROIDS #89—by **Manak, Colon,** and **Williamson.**
ELFQUEST #23—by **W.** and **R. Pini.**
FANTASTIC FOUR #303—by **Stern, J. Buscema,** and **S. Buscema.**
IRON MAN #219—by **Michelinie, Bright,** and **Layton.**
PETER PARKER THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #127
POPPLES #4
SPITFIRE AND THE TROUBLESHOOTERS #9
STAR BRAND #9
THOR #380
TOP DOG #14—by **Manak, Kremer,** and **Roettcher.**
THE TRANSFORMERS #29—by **Budiansky, Perlin, Akin,** and **Garvey.**
X-FACTOR #17—by **L. Simonson, W. Simonson,** and **Wiacek.**
CLASSIC X-MEN #10—by **Claremont, Cockrum,** and **Bolton.**
ALIEN LEGION #19—by **Zelenetz, Stroman,** and **Emberlin.**
G.I. JOE COMICS MAGAZINE #4

NEWSWATCH

A New Mutant milestone! A new Assistant Editor! A new Top Ten! A new month of Bullpen Birthdays!

ITEM: The mutant corner of the Bullpen (you might well wonder which corner that is since it seems every nook and cranny here is occupied by some sort of mutant) is really going wild over THE NEW MUTANTS #50! It's written by the mutant master, himself, **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **Jackson Guice**, and inked by **John Beatty**. The tale is crammed with crises and conflicts galore and features such highlights as the return of Professor X! In fact, this saga is so full of climactic events that the story had to be expanded to 40 pages! If you're wondering how Chris could top himself after the devastating Mutant Massacre, the answer lies in THE NEW MUTANTS #50!

ITEM: Let's all give a hearty hello to **Daryl Edelman!** Daryl is our newest Assistant Editor, and he's helping out Editor **Don Daley** on the FANTASTIC FOUR, CAPTAIN AMERICA, ANIMAX, THE TRANSFORMERS, and CHUCK NORRIS KARATE KOMMANDOS. Daryl comes to us by way of Colorado, home of the wide open spaces, but already he's become an old hand at roaming the range of the Bullpen. Welcome aboard, Daryl!

BULLPEN BIRTHDAYS

December 6	**Frank Springer**
December 8	**Mike Hobson**
December 11	**John Buscema**
December 13	**Kyle Baker**
December 15	**Marc DeMatteis**
December 17	**Andy Mushynsky**
December 19	**Peter Gillis**
December 20	**Dave Simons**
December 23	**Phil Felix**
December 25	**Joe Rosen**
December 27	**Mark Bright**
December 28	**Stan Lee**
	Ralph Macchio
December 29	**Paul Becton**

THE TOP TEN

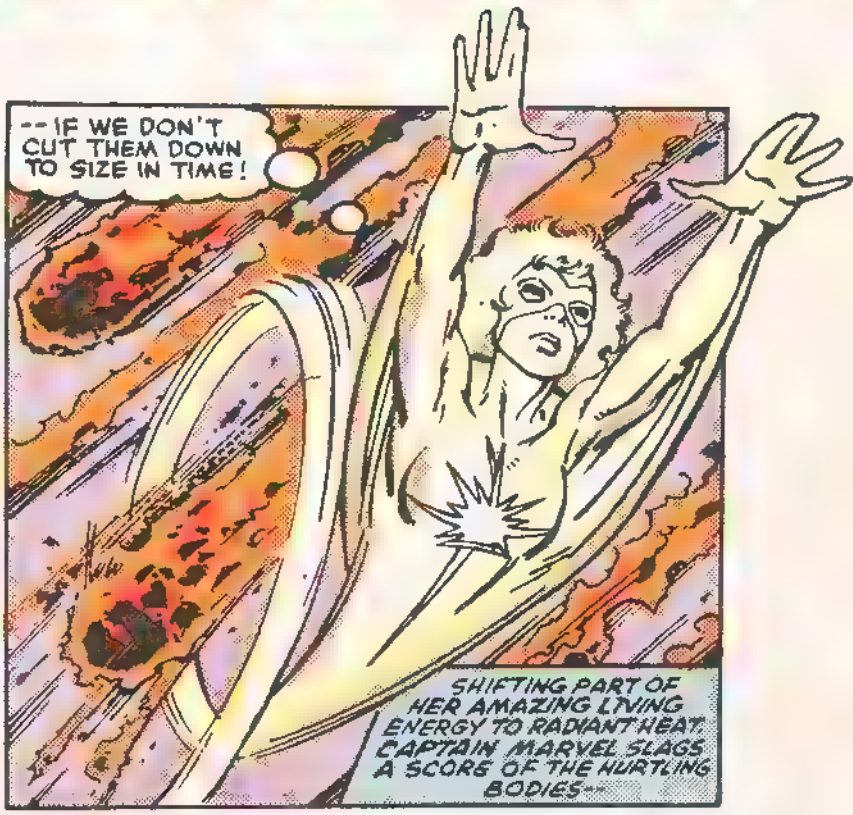
Here we go again—it's another edition of the Marvel Top Ten. It's a listing of the ten best selling Direct Sales titles for the month of August, 1986, as provided to us by the ever-busy Director of Specialty Sales, **Carol Kalish!**

1—**X-MEN #212**
2—**X-FACTOR #11**
3—**G.I. JOE SPECIAL MISSIONS #2**
4—**CLASSIC X-MEN #4**
5—**THE 'NAM #1**
6—**ELEKTRA: ASSASSIN #3**
7—**G.I. JOE #54**
8—**THE G.I. JOE ORDER OF BATTLE #2**
9—**MARVEL UNIVERSE #13**
10—**STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI #1**

X-TRA THE MUTANT REPORT X-TRA

VOLUME 2 "THE NEXT STEP IN NEWS EVOLUTION" NUMBER 7

THE X-MEN™ VS. THE AVENGERS™


--IF WE DON'T CUT THEM DOWN TO SIZE IN TIME!
SHIFTING PART OF HER AMAZING LIVING ENERGY TO RADIANT HEAT, CAPTAIN MARVEL SLAGS A SCORE OF THE HURTLING BODIES--

Asteroid M is a part of Magneto's former existence, a base of operations far above the Earth, from the Master of Magnetism's days as a world conqueror. Now he is the headmaster of Xavier's School for Gifted Youngsters, an ally of the X-Men, and the mentor of the New Mutants. And now Magneto's past is coming back to haunt—and possibly destroy—him in THE X-MEN VS. THE AVENGERS, a four-issue Limited Series which brings Earth's mightiest heroes face-to-face with the mutant controversy, and where the governments of two world powers conspire to bring a fugitive to justice any way possible. Magneto will appear before the International Court of Justice to finish his trial. And the X-Men will reach a turning point of sorts in the way they view themselves that will lead to major developments in THE X-MEN series over the next year

Written by Roger Stern and illustrated by Marc Silvestri and Joe Rubinstein, THE X-MEN VS. THE AVENGERS also features the incredible Soviet Super-Soldiers

The story begins in outer space where Magneto's old headquarters, Asteroid M, is rapidly falling toward Earth as its orbit deteriorates. When Asteroid M hits the atmosphere it fragments, raining large chunks down upon the planet. One such fragment plummets toward Ohio and the Avengers are called in to save the state from major disaster. In the process, Magneto learns of the situation.

"Asteroid M is full of all manner of dangerous and useful items, that should not be allowed to fall into the wrong hands," explains Magneto, But Woverine is worried that perhaps his former-enemy-turned-ally is only interested in having these items in his own hands once again for some unknown, and possibly sinister purpose.

Meanwhile, the United States government analyzes the falling satellite's trajectory and determines that another large fragment will fall somewhere in Southeast Asia and that the falling space debris are the remains of Magneto's one-time base of operations. In an elaborate plot to finally deal with the mutant fugitive, the U.S. leaks the information to the Soviet Union in hopes that they will set a trap for the master of magnetism if he decides to try to recover the wreckage

The Soviets are more than happy to oblige the United States. After all, Magneto once destroyed one of their submarines in an awesome display of power designed to humble the super-powered nation. They have waited a long time to repay Magneto for his generous show of strength

Magneto goes alone to recover the Southeast Asian remains of Asteroid M and falls right into the Soviets' waiting hands. But will the X Men and the Avengers stay out of something this big and important? Just try to stop them!

The anti-mutant hysteria that has reached a terrifying peak recently will finally be confronted by the Avengers. They have battled against and alongside the X-Men over the years, never quite sure what to make of the strange group of super-powered individuals But Magneto is clearly a villain and a fugitive from justice in their eyes. Thus in Magneto's case, the Avengers are certain of their duty. As Captain America explains, "Magneto must be brought in to stand trial." He cheated the World Court of a decision last time (in X-MEN #200) and that is a situation the Avengers want to rectify.

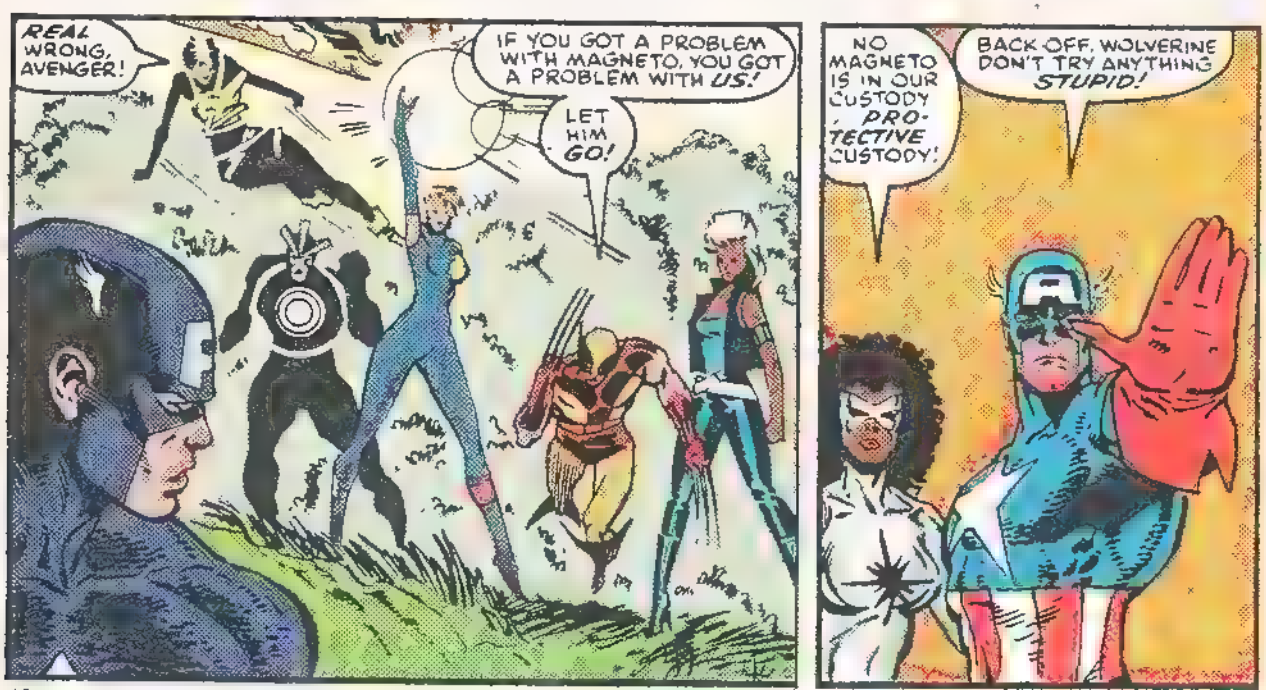
But the Soviets are determined to bring Magneto to justice in their own way. And their way doesn't include anything as formal as a World Court verdict. Instead, they unleash the Soviet Super-Soldiers! Darkstar, Vanguard, Ursa Major, Titanium Man, and the Crimson Dynamo! This mighty force starts out following orders to destroy the fugitive mutant, but winds up locked in a major confrontation with the Avengers!

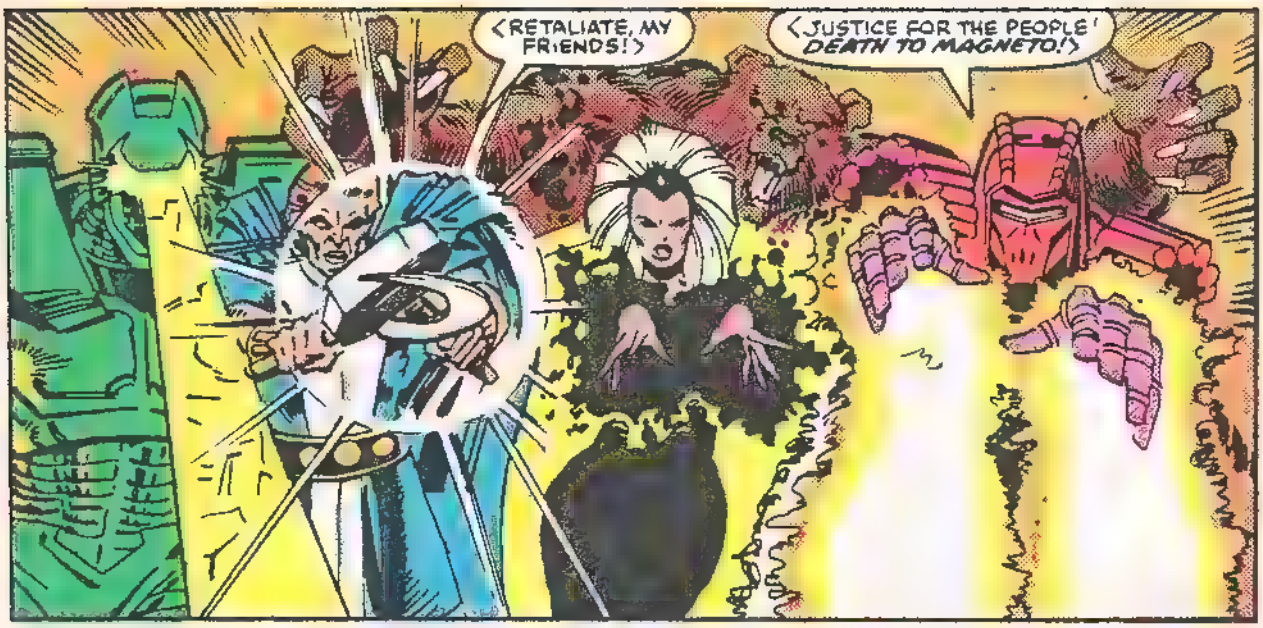
Meanwhile, the X-Men go against Magneto's wishes and arrive in Southeast Asia to find out just what is going on. When they discover the Super-Soldiers and the Avengers are involved, their priority becomes getting Magneto out of there and sorting out the pieces later Storm, Wolverine, Rogue, Dazzler, and Havok take on Captain America, Captain Marvel, Thor, She-Hulk, and Dr. Druid (the newest Avenger). And the Soviet Super-Soldiers are waiting around to mix it up with the winners

"Look at all this from the Avengers' point of view," said writer Roger Stern. "The X-Men are harboring one of the most notorious known villains of the last quarter century. Magneto has subjugated nations, tortured individuals, sabotaged government facilities He has been involved in numerous crimes that are on the public record, and they guess that he has been involved in many more that aren't. He's even battled the Avengers on more than one occasion! The Avengers may have tempered their thinking on the matter. They may even believe that he has changed. But that doesn't excuse the actions of his past. During the course of the series the X-Men themselves will come to the realization that they too must question their relationship with and allegiance to—Magneto."

What is it like writing a series that features not one, not two, but three super teams? "Zoo time," explained Roger. "It's like walking a high wire while balancing a couple of boards and a lot of people But it's exciting and I'm having a ball. I'm writing characters I've never written before. I have had some hands-on experience with the X-Men, but that was a long time ago when I was editing the book. There are some new members on the team since I was editor."

Roger is using this as a theme of the story, sort of expressing the idea through Havok's eyes. "Havok and I have something in common," said Roger. "When we were with the X-Men last it was an entirely different team. Cyclops was the leader and Magneto was the


REAL WRONG, AVENGER!
IF YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH MAGNETO, YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH US!
LET HIM GO!
NO MAGNETO IS IN OUR CUSTODY
PRO-TECTIVE CUSTODY!
BACK OFF, WOLVERINE DON'T TRY ANYTHING STUPID!



enemy Now Havok has to adjust to the newcomers and the changes, and so do I."

"Havok is almost a surrogate for me in the series," Roger said. "He has problems relating to this new group of X-Men. They're a different group since my days on the book. Once they were sort of considered a group of super heroes, almost a loosely knit gang of Spider-Men, who would show up, save the day, and disappear. Now they are feared, and people are even more worried because they associate with Magneto, a known super-villain. It's an extra cross that they have to bear. Another funny thing is that this is the first time I'm getting to write Dazzler, and I named her way back when."

Another interesting personal dilemma that Roger will integrate into the storyline is the feelings that are nagging at Storm. Ever since she lost her powers she has been trying to cope as best she could. But here she will meet Thor, a hero who can call down and control the very storms she used to wield. And Captain Marvel can actually become lightning. These heroes will serve as painful reminders to Storm of her lost abilities and will offer new insights into her character and those of the Avengers.

Marc Silvestri and Joe Rubinstein have teamed up to produce some exciting and powerful art for the four-issue Limited Series. "It's beautiful stuff," said Roger. "They say that Marc is an up-and-comer as far as art is concerned, but this is it. He has arrived with THE X-MEN VS THE AVENGERS." It looks real nice. And he draws K-Marts better than anyone!"

The Avengers and the X-Men aren't the only ones doing some major soul-searching in the series. The Soviet Super-Soldiers have some problems and moral considerations of their own to address. For one thing, four members of the team are mutants themselves. Darkstar, Ursa Major, Vanguard, and Gremlin are all children of the atom. They are none too pleased with the treatment mutants have been undergoing in the Soviet Union in recent years. It is even worse than the anti-mutant hysteria in the United States. Add to this the fact that one of their teammates—the Crimson Dynamo—is a KGB spy assigned to assure their loyalty, and you've got some major inner strife brewing.

The mutant controversy is reaching a point now where it's starting to affect even such groups as the Avengers. The Avengers have had mutant members at various times over the years, and they have fought against evil mutants as well. "What's the difference between a hero who receives his powers from a radioactive spider and a hero who is born with a genetic ability?" said Roger. "Does it make a difference? Should it make a difference? It's this irrational fear of mutants that the Avengers want to address. After all, it could escalate to include anyone who wears a costume or displays a superpower. It's like hating left handed people—it's the worse kind of paranoid bigotry."

But the deep issues are only a part of the story. Another part is the characters, and Roger has his favorites in each group.

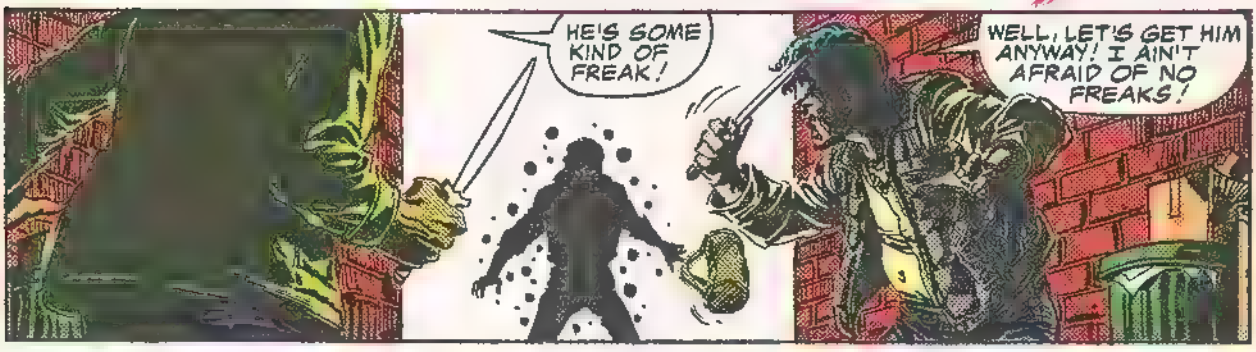
"In the X-Men, I enjoyed writing Wolverine and Havok best," explained Roger. "In the Super-Soldiers I really liked writing Titanium Man and, in a weird sort of way, Ursa Major. He's a big bear guy who reminds me of an old Arte Johnson routine. And in the Avengers, the two captains Marvel and America—and She-Hulk are the most fun. I guess I also like the Avengers best as a whole. They are the most together bunch of heroes around. They known who they are and they're organized and full of purpose. The X-Men have an ambiguity about them. They're very confused, through no fault of their own. The world misunderstands them and while we can empathize with that, there's just something more powerful in the Avengers' confidence."

While I might want to be Wolverine if I were in a tough spot, Captain America is always going to be my favorite character," he said.

If it sounds like THE X-MEN VS THE AVENGERS is going to be a major milestone in the Marvel Universe, you're right!

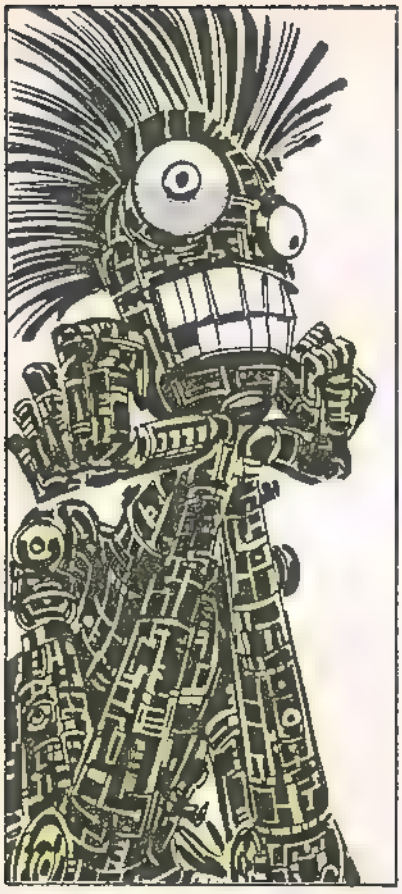
—*William Slavicsek*

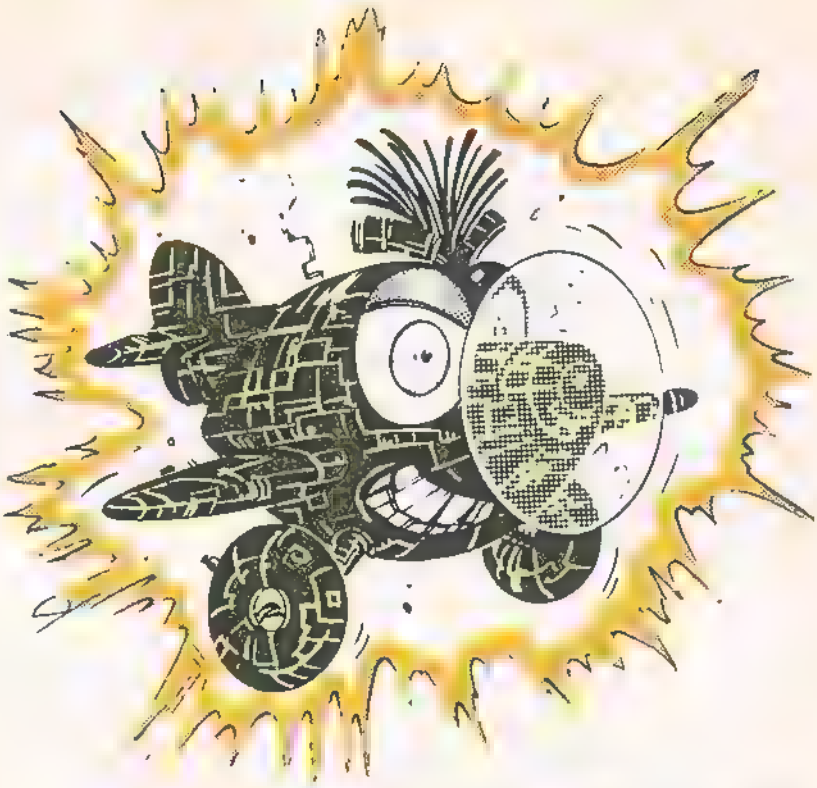
FALLEN ANGELS™



Sunspot. Warlock. The Multiple Man. Siryn. A "glitter queen" alien named Ariel. A kid named Gomi, who has two purple and green intelligent lobsters as sidekicks. Devil Dinosaur and Moon Boy. These are the characters that comprise the "FALLEN ANGELS," formerly titled "THE MISFITS," a four-issue limited series written by Jo Duffy and drawn by Kerry Gammill. Jo spoke with MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE regarding this series several months ago (MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #37), and this month we caught up with Kerry Gammill, who gave us an update on the series, as well as talking about the book from the artist's perspective.

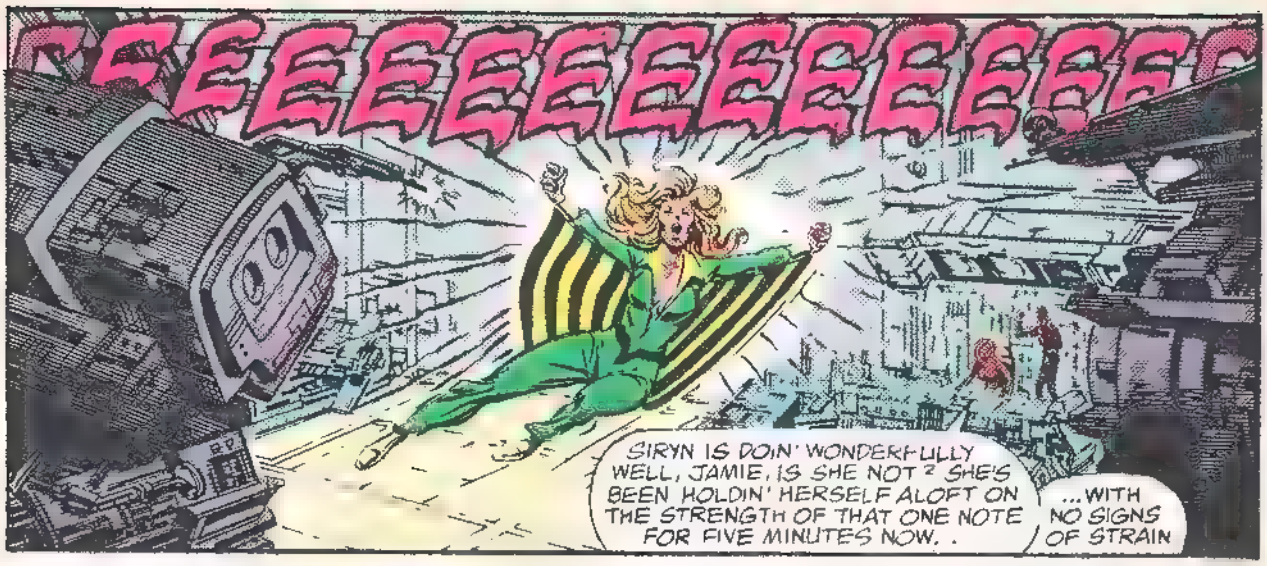
"I've worked with Jo before," Kerry said, "and I ran into her at a convention in Houston earlier in the year. Chris Claremont was there also, and the three of us started talking about a new book that Jo and Ann Nocenti were planning, called THE MISFITS. Jo was excited about borrowing Chris's New Mutants characters. They looked at each other, and then at me, and Jo suggested to Chris that I might be the right one to pencil the series."





At the time of the interview, Kerry was working on penciling issue #2, and he had some interesting views on the characters he's drawing. "I've been mainly doing what you would call 'old standby' characters for the last few years, pretty much your average super hero stuff – which this book really isn't – and this is a good opportunity for me to get into some strange type characters. So far, Warlock has been my favorite character to draw – he's very challenging, because he's basically pure emotion. His whole body expresses what he's thinking. It's tough, because it forces me to think very creatively about emotion, and express it in Warlock's crazy body language."

Because this is a book about teenagers – mutant teenagers, but teenagers nonetheless, the emotions of the characters play a big part in the action of the story. Warlock's body language, Sunspot's outbursts of frustration that sometime lead to violence, and the problems that all kids face when they are confronted with situations that they may not be emotionally old enough to handle give Kerry a unique opportunity to draw kids at


EEEEEEEEEEEEEE
SIRYN IS DOIN' WONDERFULLY WELL, JAMIE, IS SHE NOT? SHE'S BEEN HOLDIN' HERSELF ALOFT ON THE STRENGTH OF THAT ONE NOTE FOR FIVE MINUTES NOW. .
...WITH NO SIGNS OF STRAIN

their worst as well as at their best.

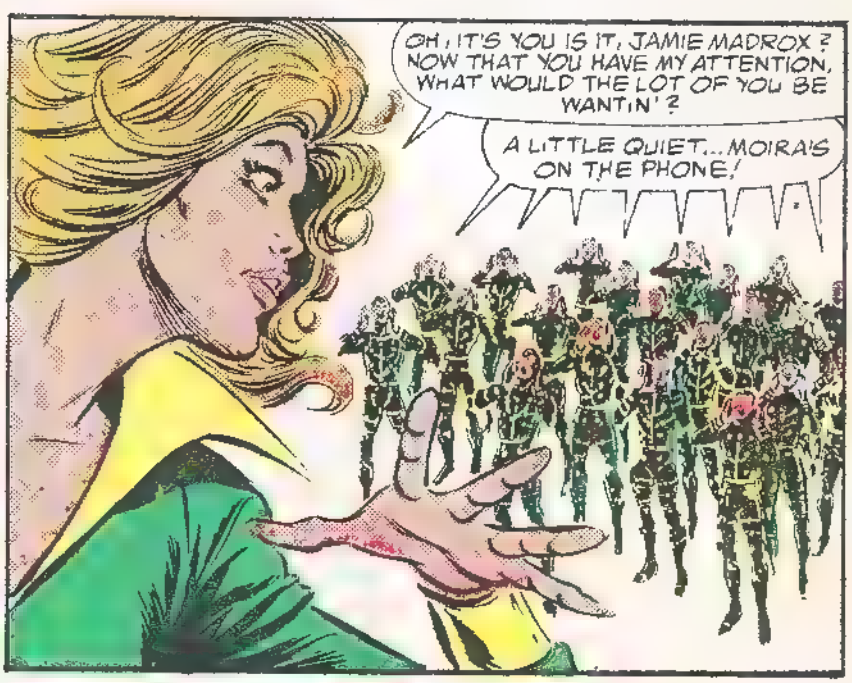
"Ariel, the alien whose people are after her, is very interesting to work with," Kerry told us "She's not really too alien looking, except that she has a kind of glitter all over her body, and she dresses very flamboyantly --very modern. For reference for the clothes she wears, I had to go to bookstores and buy all the young women's and teen magazines in order to make sure that she's dressed right for the 80's tone of the characters. I haven't kept up really with what the young girls are wearing lately, so that was a fun experience!" In many ways, Kerry indicated, the characters are images of today's kids. They are struggling with today's problems Only in their case those problems range from what to wear to how to control a mutant power that could potentially be very dangerous. He feels that the popularity of the comics dealing with teenaged mutants is due in great part to the fact that they do appeal to the teens of today kids going through that transitional time in life.

"Kids today are under a lot of peer pressure—they sometimes need to retreat behind masks of one sort or another to shield them—and the thought that kids like the Fallen Angels are going through some of the same things they are—well, it gives them something to identify with I'm trying to make the Fallen Angels as much like real kids as possible. Jo's making that very easy for me "

Two of the characters that are in the new series, have made appearances in the X-Men --Jamie Madrox, the Multiple Man, and Siryn, Banshee's daughter Kerry is having fun working with these characters. "These are two characters who haven't gotten very much attention, and I'm looking forward to being able to bring them more into the forefront, and giving them their own definitive look, as well as doing some creative stuff with their powers."

"I haven't worked with Devil Dinosaur or Moon Boy yet—they appear in the last two issues—but it should be interesting I'm over the halfway mark now, and it gets less complicated from here." Less complicated, perhaps. More strange, weird, and exciting --you bet!

—Sue Flaxman


OH, IT'S YOU IS IT, JAMIE MADROX? NOW THAT YOU HAVE MY ATTENTION, WHAT WOULD THE LOT OF YOU BE WANTIN'?
A LITTLE QUIET... MOIRA'S ON THE PHONE!

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Y'know something? The X-MEN and their various spinoff titles are the best-selling comic books in the whole country! That staggering fact made me stop and think the other day. Now don't misunderstand me. That doesn't mean I'm *not* thinking the rest of the time! But it made me wonder what's so appealing about our mischievous menage of misunderstood muties.

When we created the original **X-Men** in the early '60s, you readers found them original, unusual and exciting. They've always been right up there at the top of the Marvel line-up. But for the past few years their popularity has been phenomenal—they've even managed to outsell the Agonizing Adventures of **Irving Forbush**!

So here's the pitch. I wanna know what makes Marvel's misanthropic mutants bigger than **Jim Shooter's** sneakers. Is it the splendiferous scripting of **Craggy Chris Claremont**? Is it the awesome artwork of whoever it is that's drawing which of the titles at any given time? Is it the phantasmagoric plethora of klutzy costumes, costumes that make each issue a veritable symphony of cacophonous hues and rainbow colors? Is it the fact that mutants have become a national obsession, like sushi bars and soap operas? Is it the name itself—does something grab Marveldom Assembled about the letter X? Or is it some strange, subtle, hitherto unsuspected element known only to you out there in the uncharted wilds of the maniacal Marvel Universe, something you haven't yet revealed to us?

Well, we're never gonna find out unless you tell us. That's why, out of the kindness of my warm and loving heart, I'm prepared to award a special edition of late-model NO-PRIZES to the first few million or so True Believers who send in a letter of 100 words or less telling why the X-MEN is the world's best-selling comic book super team. (Neatness counts!) (**The' X-Men's** neatness, silly person, not yours!)

And now, I'll sign off before your tears of gratitude prove too overwhelming. Hey, by the way, didja know that the word "whelm" means the same as "overwhelm"? So I could'a said, "—before your tears of gratitude prove too whelming." See? Every little Soapbox column is like a priceless education!

So, until **Marge** tells **Wolverine** that he's really been dipping his claws in Palmolive, I'll leave you with one imperishable thought. Never run after a bus or a mutant. There'll always be another along in a few minutes.

EXCELSIOR!

Stan

AS YOU MIGHT'VE READ ELSEWHERE, MARVEL WILL SOON BE PUBLISHING A FANTASTIC FOUR VS. THE X-MEN LIMITED SERIES.
THE 1ST F.F. X-MEN BATTLE!!
THE PLOT? IT'S SIMPLE ENOUGH: WORKING IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE MAD THINKER & HIS AWESOME ANDROID, THE PUPPET MASTER TAKES CONTROL OF PROFESSOR X AND HAS HIM SEND HIS X-MEN OFF TO BATTLE THE F.F. ON THE SPURIOUS NOTION THAT THE FAB FOUR ARE BENT ON WORLD DOMINATION!
INEVITABLY, THE HOAX IS REVEALED AND THE BAD GUYS GET THEIR JUST DESSERTS (THOUGH YOU'D THINK THEY'D GET NO DESSERTS AFTER THE WAY THEY ACTED...)
A FUN STORY, ALBEIT A SLIGHT ONE; IT'S MAIN JOY WAS PROVIDING A LARGE DOSE OF KINETIC KIRBY KAOS, A SMALL PORTION OF WHICH I RESPECTFULLY EMULATE HERE.
AS THE X-MEN FLY OFF AT TALE'S END, LO THOSE MANY YEARS AGO, REED LOOKS UP TO THE SKY AND INTONES, "THEY'RE A WONDERFUL GROUP! MAKES YOU PROUD OF THE YOUNGSTERS OF TODAY!!"

THIS CAUSED ME, A LONGTIME COMICS FAN APPROACHING GEEZERHOOD, TO RECALL THE VERY FIRST MEETING OF THE TWO TEAMS.
THE HANDIWORK OF COMICS' LEGENDS STAN LEE AND JACK KIRBY (ABLY INKED BY CHIC STONE), IT OCCURRED BACK IN THE JULY 1964 ISSUE OF THE F.F., NUMBER 28. THE STORIES TITLE? TAKE A DEEP BREATH, 'CAUSE HERE IT COMES: "THE FABULOUS FANTASTIC FOUR ARE SHOCKED TO LEARN: WE HAVE TO FIGHT THE X-MEN!"
(WORD IS THAT THE FABULOUS F.F. WEREN'T NEARLY AS SHOCKED TO LEARN THEY HAD TO FIGHT THE X-MEN THIS TIME AROUND...)
I CAN'T BE CERTAIN AS TO HOW THE LIMITED SERIES WILL END, BUT THIS TIME AROUND, THERE'S AN AWFULLY GOOD CHANCE THE PHRASE "THAT @#%^& WOLVERINE" WILL BE INVOKED!
AND THAT'S ALL FROM ME, THAT @#%^& FRED HEMBECK, THIS MONTH--BYE!

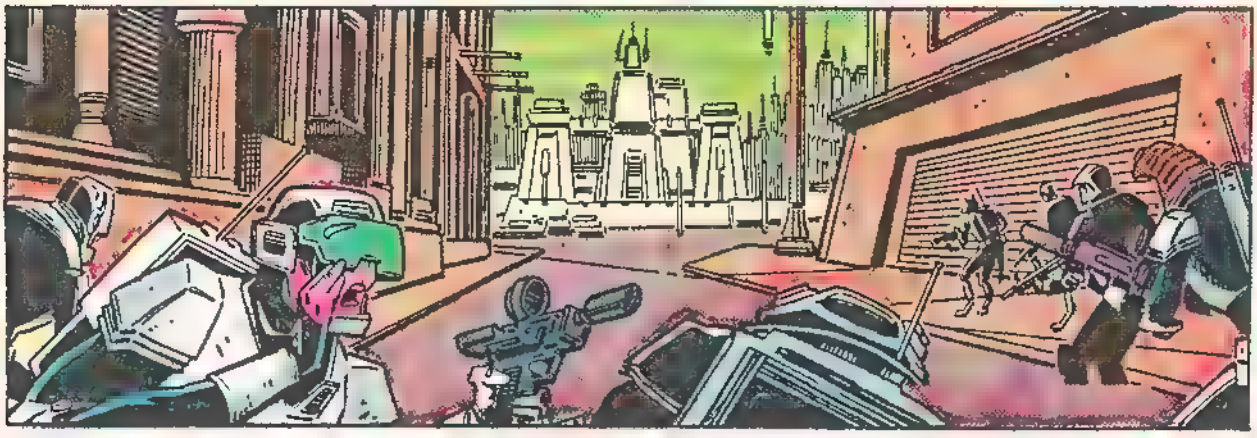
FRED HEMBECK © 1986 Fred Hembeck.

One moment of anger—
and their lives are changed forever!
Created by Jo Duffy
and Kerry Gammill
FALLEN ANGELS
FROM MARVEL COMICS
TM & © 1986 Marvel Comics Group. All rights reserved.

ALIEN LEGION currently Epic Comics' longest running title, was inadvertantly left out of this year's MARVEL AGE ANNUAL Marvel A to Z feature To make up for it, we're giving ALIEN LEGION the full MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE star treatment This article gives you both a look at what's going on in the regular series and a sneak preview of the upcoming and long awaited ALIEN LEGION Graphic Novel.

Happy now, Carl?

ALIEN LEGION™



TM and © 1986 Carl Potts

Risking their very lives to preserve the security of the Galarchy, they stand united to protect it against the threat of the menacing Harkilon Empire. They are the men (and other assorted creatures) of THE ALIEN LEGION!

But while they stand united in their cause, the Legionnaires make up one of the most diverse groups in the universe. Gathered together from dozens of worlds, they form a hodge-podge of species, cultures, and personalities. There's the hard-driving, serpentine leader of **Nomad Squadron**, **Captain Sarigar**, the wealthy university-student-turned-soldier, **Lieutenant Torie Montroc**; the aging warrior, **Zeerod**; the deadly escaped murderer, **Jugger Grimrod**; the slow-moving juggernaut, **Durge**; the cunning (and slightly shady) scavenger, **Dun**; the four-armed esper/medic, **Mescad**; and many, many others

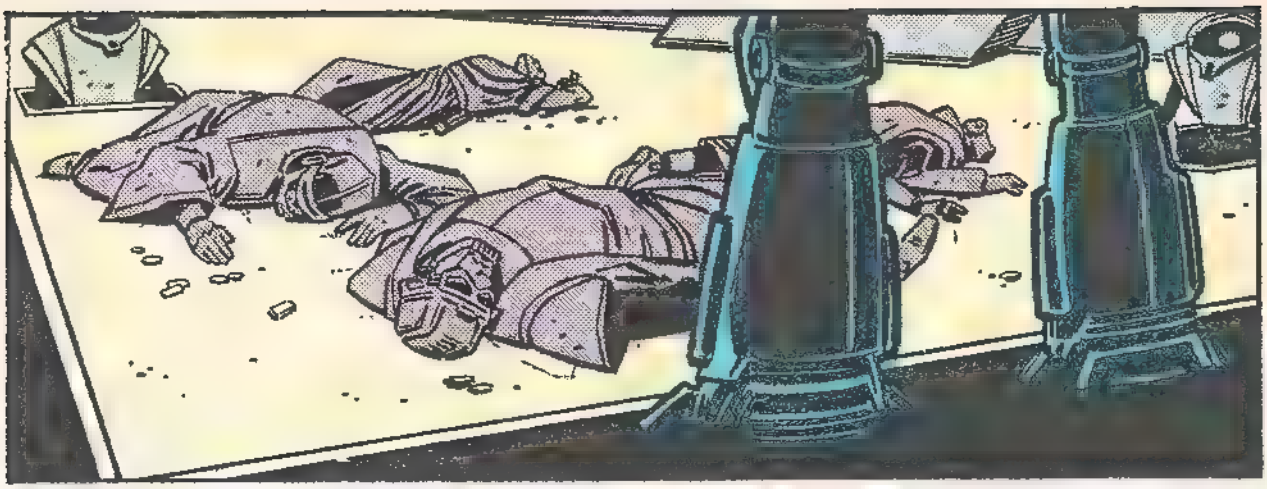
Over the past two years, readers of the Legion's popular Epic Comics series have thrilled to the sight of the Legion's innumerable battles with **the Harkilons**. They've seen the Legion triumphant, and all too often, they've seen Legionnaires die But as ALIEN LEGION editor **Carl Potts** is quick to point out, THE ALIEN LEGION is about far more than just war. "The concept of THE ALIEN LEGION is based on the society itself," Carl says, "It's an integrated society made up of various kinds of creatures, and that causes problems by itself!"

It certainly does! So far, the problems have ranged from simple misunderstandings to out-and-out, no-holds-barred fights among the Legionnaires. And through it all, ALIEN LEGION followers have asked, "What could possibly happen next?"

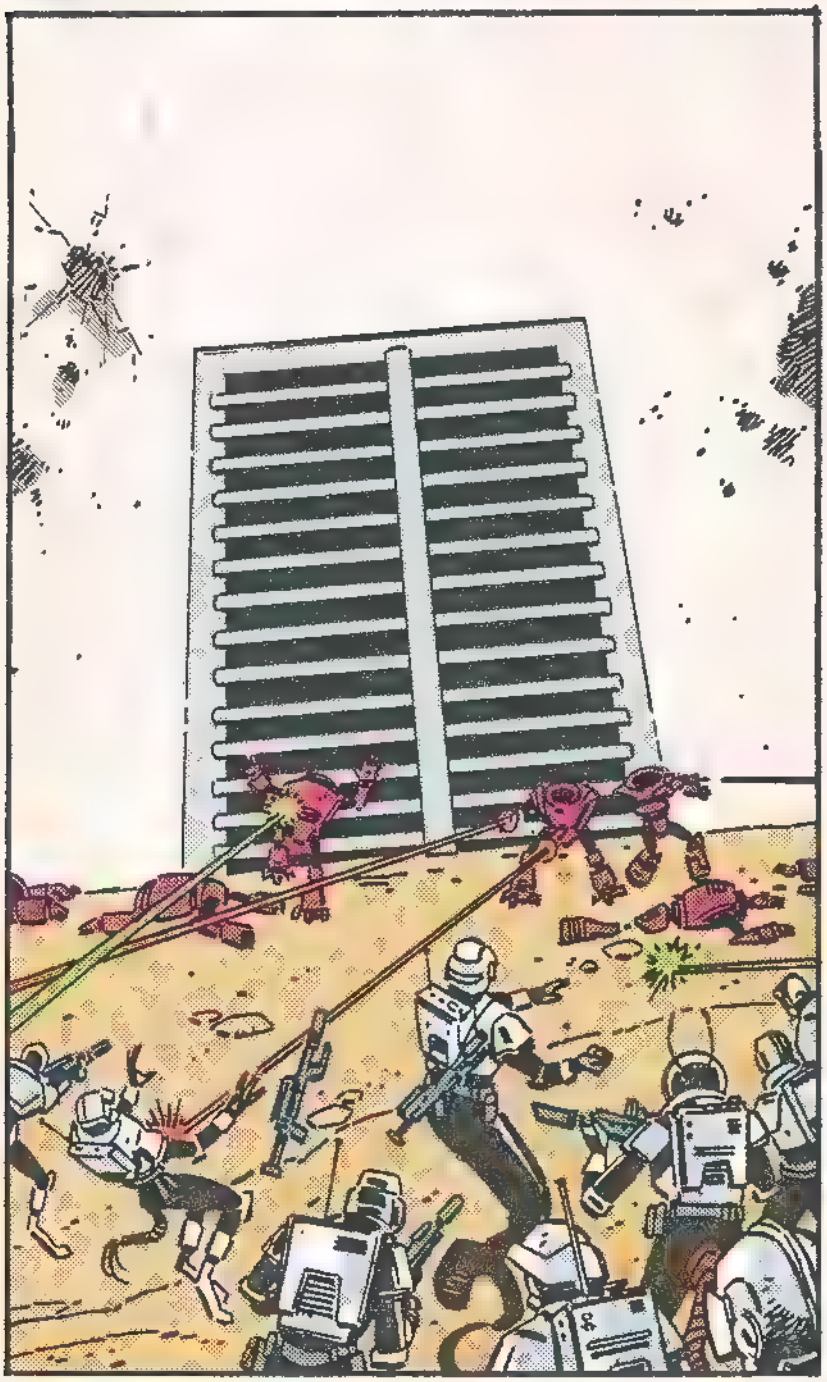
Glad you asked.

We managed to corner Carl Potts and get the lowdown on what lies ahead for the Legion through the coming months. And it seems that as far as Carl, scripter **Alan Zelenetz**, and artists **Larry Stroman** and **Randy Emberlin** are concerned, you ain't seen nothing yet!

"We'll be doing mostly self-contained stories, but there's one two-parter coming up which features the court-martial of Durge!" Carl reveals "Durge has been using drugs. He's a



TM and © 1986 Carl Potts



go-getter housed in a slow-moving body, so he's tempted to try to speed up. While he's under the influence of some drugs on a mission, civilians are killed, and it looks like he did it!

"In the court-martial, we'll be seeing various people's points of view, so there will be slightly different interpretations of just what happened."

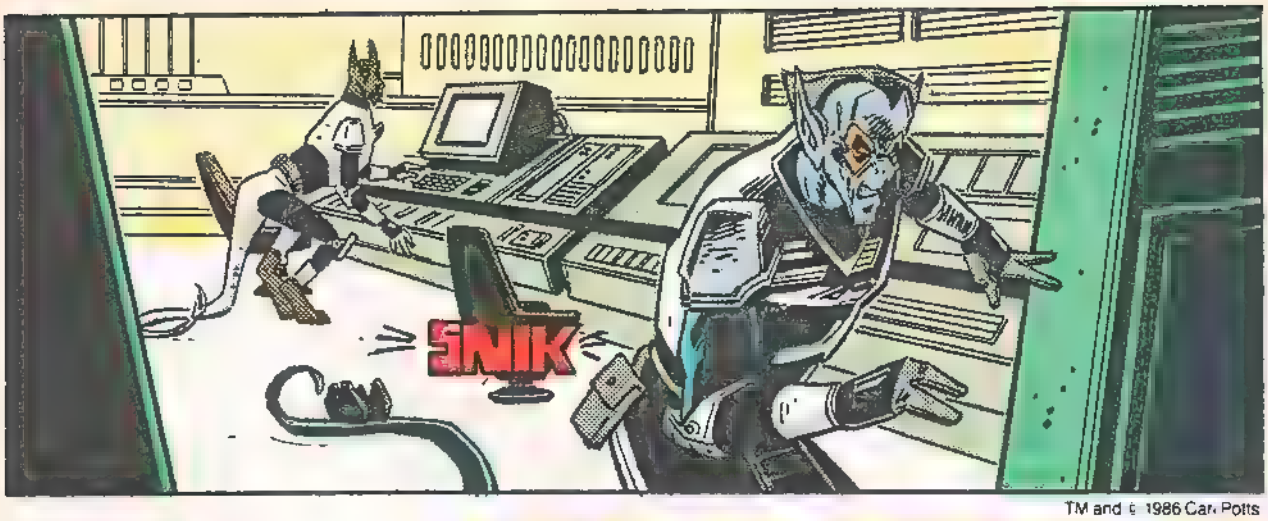
While Durge's fate is being decided, a new Legionnaire is being introduced —and it's one who readers have long been demanding! "We're introducing **Tamara**, our first *obvious* female," Carl says. The reason that Carl emphasizes the word "obvious" is that, as he puts it, "there are a lot more than two sexes in the Galarchy. In Tamara's initial episode, no one even makes reference to her sex, because the Legion's always had a variety of sexes! We've just never had time to go into it."

In the wake of Durge's court-martial, subsequent issues will feature various Legionnaires facing their own pasts and the consequences of their actions. Dun will be caught red-handed scavenging valuables from the bodies of dead soldiers. Sangar will try to come to terms with his family's history as members of the slave caste on his home planet. Tonie Montroc's father, who forced him to join the Legion as a condition of his inheritance, will fall gravely ill and Tonie will have to leave his post to see him. What will happen when Tonie sees his father again? Sorry, that would be telling.

Looking toward the more distant future, Carl says, "Eventually, we'd like to get into the issue of genders and sexuality. We've been planning to have a story dealing with an asexual Legionnaire.

"We also intend to deal more with the public's view of the Legion, looking at the ideal of the Legion versus what the Legionnaires really go through.

"One story I've been wanting to do for a while addresses the question, 'In a society where you have so many kinds of creatures, how do you tell the



TM and © 1986 Carl Potts

difference between, say, objects and sentient beings?' "

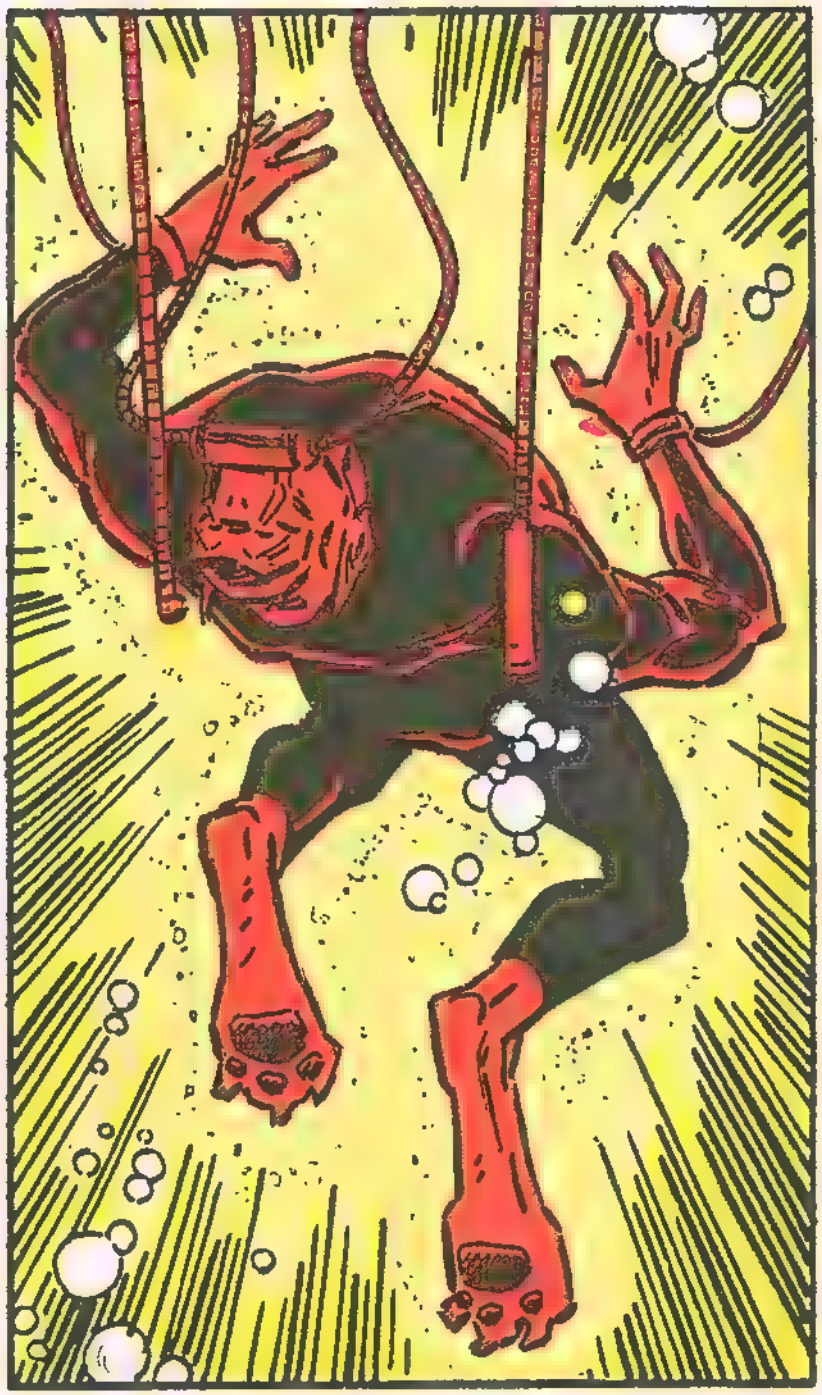
Another thing that Carl looks forward to is the return of ALIEN LEGION back-up stories. Often, an issue features a main story and a back-up which relates to the main story and helps to flesh out some aspect of it. "Lately, we've been doing mostly self-contained stories, so they take up the room that would be used for the back-up," Carl explains. "But I like the back-ups and we'll probably do more of them in the future."

Some of the most exciting ALIEN LEGION news of the year doesn't really concern the regular ALIEN LEGION series, though. Soon comics specialty shops all over America will be carrying the ALIEN LEGION Graphic Novel! The Graphic Novel is written by Carl Potts and Alan Zelenetz, colored by **Steve Oliff**, and features the return of the original ALIEN LEGION art team, **Frank Cirocco** and **Terry Austin**. It also features the death of a major character (although Carl wouldn't tell us which one)! Carl describes the plot of the Graphic Novel this way: "The Legion is sent in to deal with a Khomeni-type leader who wants to take over everything. Torie Montroc is sent as the head of an assassination plot, but the plot goes against all of his values. The graphic novel looks at how to treat a sentient being and how not to, the ideal of having a perfectly integrated society versus the reality that you can't." The story is a powerful one, and it's matched by the fine artwork of Frank and Terry. The ALIEN LEGION Graphic Novel is sure to be a hit!

Between the events coming up in the Graphic Novel and in the regular Epic Comics series, this is going to be one of the most exciting years yet for THE ALIEN LEGION! So rush on out to your local comics specialty shop and reserve your copies today.

After all, it's not just a job, it's an adventure!

—Sholly Fisch

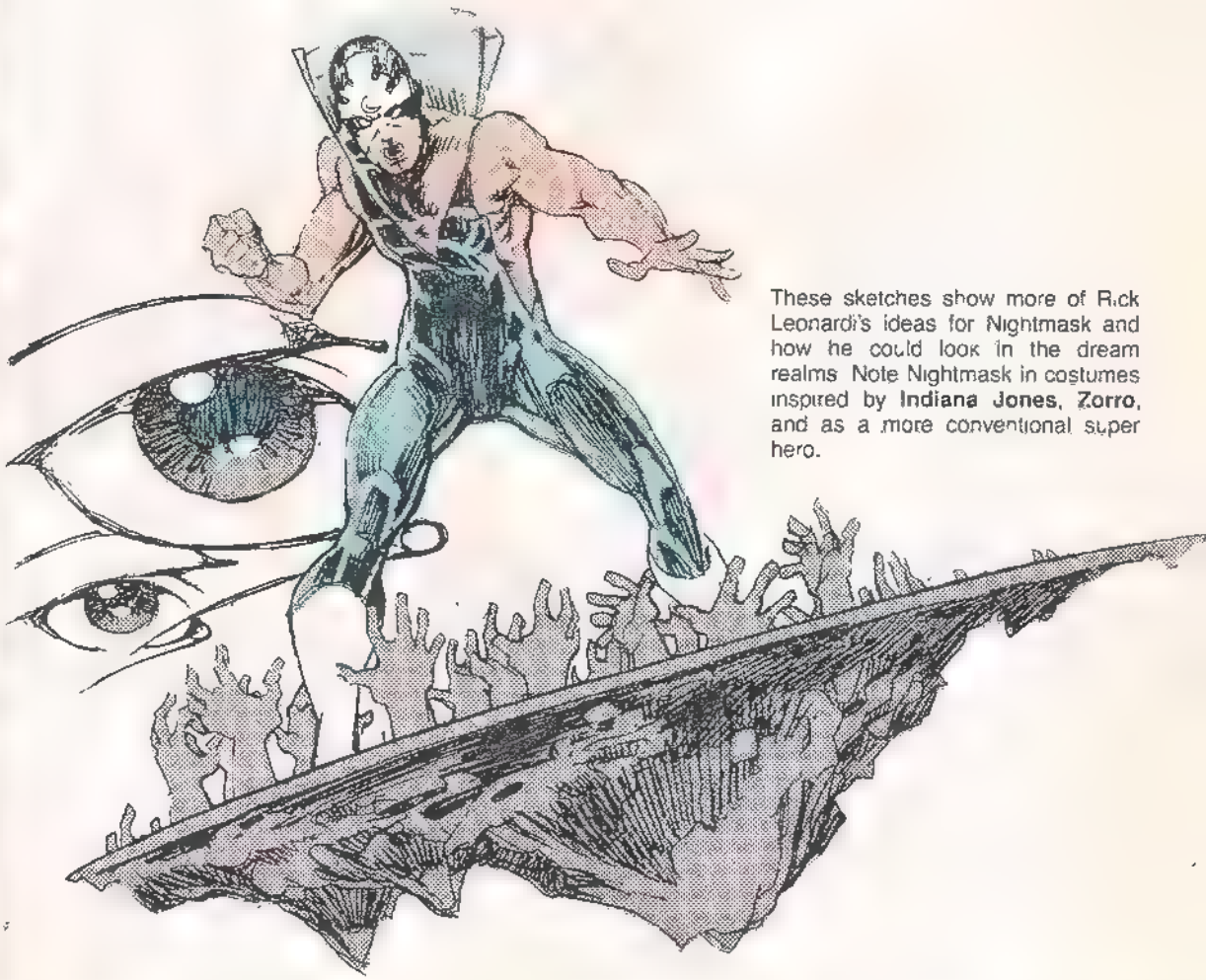


new universe
part 2

Last month we began our glimpse at how the look of the New Universe was developed. This month we continue our behind the scenes look by examing the costume sketches for Nightmask, mask sketches for Psi Hawk, and a sketch of Mark Hazzard: Merc and his weapons.

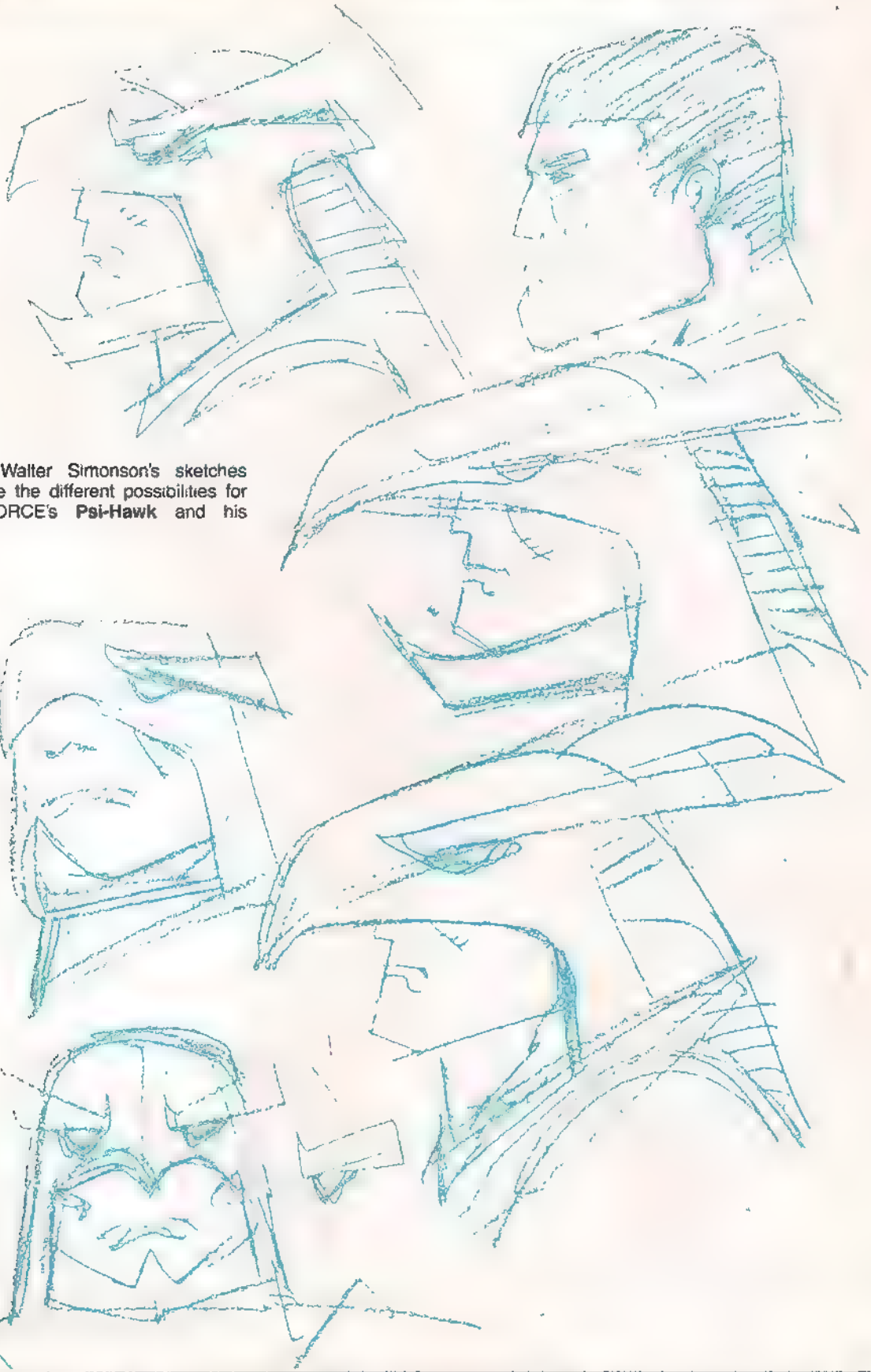
Even though the designs and illustrations you'll see weren't used, they are a very interesting. They show how much care and development went into making the New Universe the best it could be. The artists represented here include **Walter Simonson**, **Rick Leonardi**, and **Archie Goodwin**.

And now, **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE** proudly presents the second half of our look at the development of the New Universe



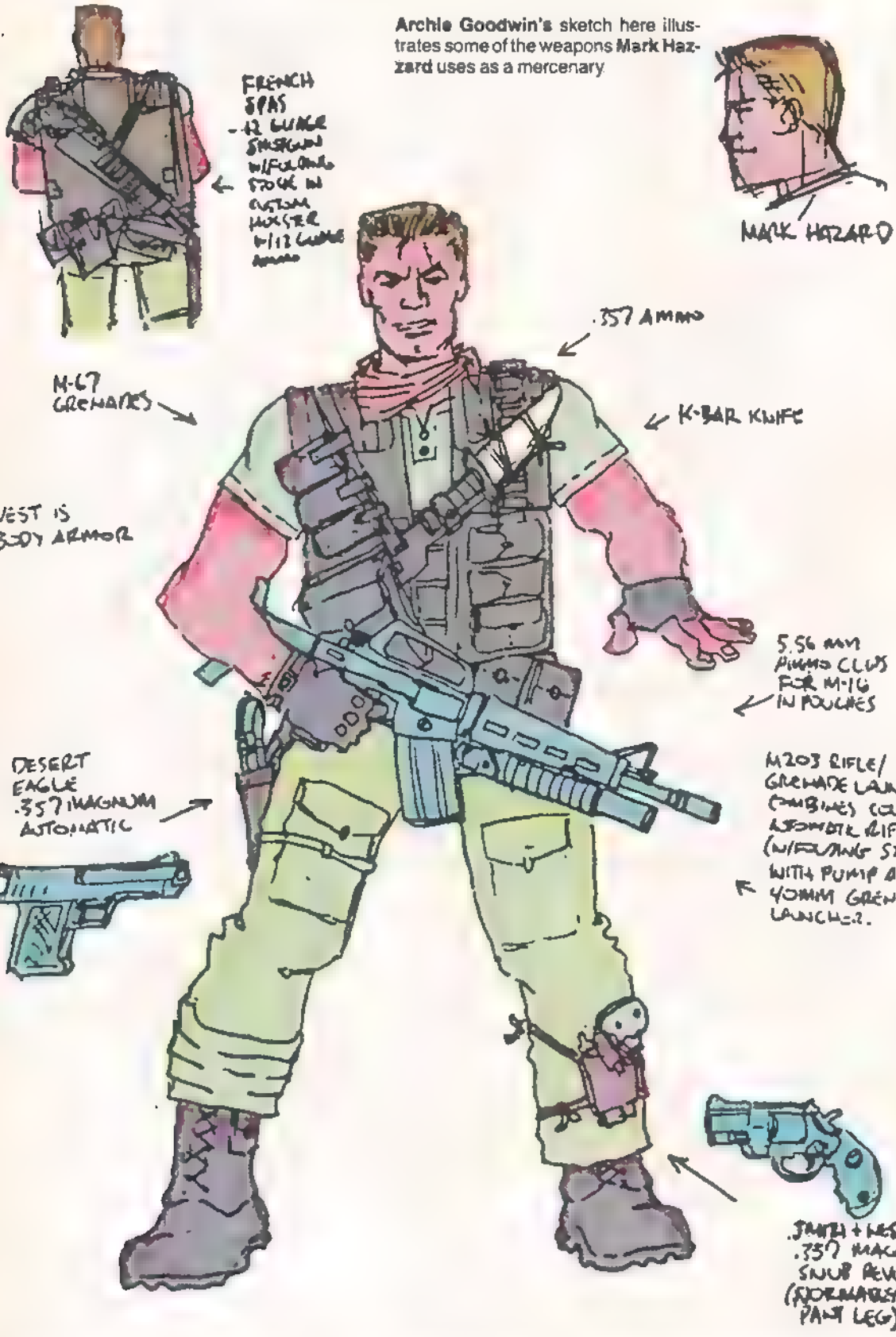
These sketches show more of Rick Leonardi's ideas for Nightmask and how he could look in the dream realms. Note Nightmask in costumes inspired by **Indiana Jones**, **Zorro**, and as a more conventional super hero.

Close-ups of different masks for **Nightmask**, by Rick Leonardi



Here Walter Simonson's sketches explore the different possibilities for PSI-FORCE's **Psi-Hawk** and his mask.

Archie Goodwin's sketch here illustrates some of the weapons **Mark Hazzard** uses as a mercenary


FRENCH SPAS -12 GUAGE SHOTGUN W/FOLDING STOCK IN CUSTOM HOLSTER W/12 GUAGE AMMO
MARK HAZARD
.357 AMMO
M-67 GRENADES
K-BAR KNIFE
VEST IS BODY ARMOR
5.56 MM AMMO CLIPS FOR M-16 IN POUCHES
DESERT EAGLE .357 MAGNUM AUTOMATIC
M203 RIFLE/ GRENADE LAUNCHER COMBINES COLT M-16 COMBAT RIFLE (W/FOLDING STOCK WITH PUMP ACTION 40MM GRENADE LAUNCHER.
SMITH + WESSON .357 MAGNUM SNUB REVOLVER (NORMALLY IN PANT LEG)

THE MARVEL AGE 1973

Before we begin, a personal note: **Tom Orzechowski**, this one's for you.

And now to get underway. This time around, we come to the end of our look at Marvel: 1973. We'll wrap things up with a look at some of Marvel's most malevolent monsters and a couple of tragic deaths—one of a major character from AMAZING SPIDER-MAN and the other of one of the most prominent writer/artists in comics.

[illegible] **Jack Russell** [illegible] **the Werewolf** [illegible] **Satana the Mad Monk** [illegible] written the mystic tome known as the Darkhold. No sooner had the

Werewolf put an end to Aelfric's latest life than he found himself hunted by a would-be cowboy named **Joshua Kane**. And when Kane was accidentally crushed by a stuffed bear, Kane's brother offered to cure Jack's sister, **Lissa**, of the potential for becoming a wolf herself. But there was a catch—Jack had to kill someone for him first. The Werewolf managed to avoid killing, but soon found himself captured and put on display in a circus sideshow. After he escaped, he woke up (as Jack) in a police drunk tank and faced one of his greatest perils of the year: a trip home and endless arguments with his father! The arguments didn't last too long, though, since Jack was soon abducted by **Sarnak, Master of Sound**. Sarnak planned to use the Werewolf and an army of fear in a heinous plot to manipulate the economy. The Werewolf put an end to Sarnak's fiendish plans, only to encounter yet another new menace, **the Hangman**. The Hangman had been killing criminals and kidnaping their victims in an insane attempt to "protect" them. The Werewolf nearly met his end in the Hangman's noose, but freed himself and the Hangman's prisoners, to boot.

Meanwhile, another classic monster was entering the scene. It was **Mary Shelley's** MONSTER OF FRANKENSTEIN. An Arctic expedition had found the monster's frozen body and accidentally released him, bringing him back to life. Once freed, the monster recalled the story of his creation. He remembered how **Victor Frankenstein** had built his body from parts of corpses and had imbued it with life. He also remembered how Victor had sought to kill him, until the monster ended his own existence by leaping into the frigid Arctic waters, which froze him solid for decades. And now, the monster faced a seemingly endless series of natural perils like storms, tidal waves, and shipwrecks. Could he survive again?

Well, we've covered the adventures of a werewolf and the Frankenstein monster, so now, it must be time for a trip to THE TOMB OF DRACULA. Early in the year, scripter **Gardner Fox** left the series. He handed the reins over to **Marv Wolfman**, who (along with penciler **Gene Colan**) would bring TOMB OF DRACULA (as well as the new black and white magazine DRACULA LIVES) to artistic heights which were previously undreamt of. Marv and Gene's names would forever be the ones most closely associated with the series. The pair got off to a flying start with tales of **Dracula's** transforming a group of children into a Legion of Doom and his attempt to raise an army of vampires. They introduced new foes for Dracula such as the deadly vampire hunter **Blade** and

the evil **Faust**, who was forced to live in an iron lung but still commanded voodoo and a street gang. Before the year was over, Blade even managed to kill Dracula—but the Lord of the Undead was soon revived by a band of hypnotized villagers, causing him to reflect on his last "death" at the hands of a Scotsman three years earlier.

Dracula spent an awful lot of time dying over the years, but a Living Vampire occupied the spotlight in the black and white magazine VAMPIRE TALES. **Michael Morbius** had been a brilliant scientist until a rare blood disease gave him an insatiable thirst for blood. Writers **Steve Gerber** and **Don McGregor** and artists **Pablo Marcos** and **Rich Buckler** guided the unwilling vampire through his quest for his lost love, **Martine**. But Morbius didn't realize that his quest would lead him into battles with mighty demons and a cult of devil-worshippers. (Incidentally, VAMPIRE TALES also featured reprints of classic horror stories, but the second issue included a preview of a new character—**Satana, the Devil's Daughter**. We'll learn more about her soon.)

Another unwilling monster made his debut in TALES OF THE ZOMBIE. When millionaire **Simon Garth** fired one of his employees, the employee took his revenge by killing Simon and turning him into a zombie. But before long, the zombie took revenge of his own; his murderer tried using a magic locket to control him, but when he sent the zombie to bring him Simon's daughter, the zombie killed him instead. Simon's daughter found the locket, which turned out to be lucky for her, when she was attacked by a mugger and the zombie stopped him.

What's that? You say you still don't

MARVEL COMICS PRICE GUIDE

Psst . . . hey, kid, y'wanna buy some comics? Well, here's what you can expect to pay at your local comics specialty shop for the issues we've been discussing in this month's column. Our source, as usual, is **Robert Overstreet's** *The Comic Book Price Guide* #16. Remember, though that this is only a guide; actual prices may vary and they should be even lower for copies in fair or poor condition.

	CONDITION		
	Good	Fine	Mint
■ **DRACULA LIVES**			
1–3	40	1.25	2.50
4	35	1.00	2.00
■ **MARVEL TEAM-UP**			
6–10	.75	2.25	4.50
11–16	.50	1.50	3.00
■ **MONSTER OF FRANKENSTEIN**			
1	—	.30	60
2–4	—	25	.50
■ **SPIDER-MAN**			
116–118	.50	1.50	3.00
119–120	.60	1.80	3.60
121 Death of **Gwen Stacy**	2.50	7.50	15.00
122 Death of **Green Goblin**	2.50	7.50	15.00
123–127	.35	1.00	2.00
■ **STRANGE TALES**			
169–170	—	.30	.60
■ **SUB-MARINER**			
57–60	—	.30	.60
61–68	—	.25	.50
■ **TALES OF THE ZOMBIE**			
1	.50	1.50	3.00
■ **TOMB OF DRACULA**			
6–9	.30	.90	1.80
10 1st app. **Blade**	.35	1.00	2.00
11–12	—	.60	1.20
13	.25	.70	1.40
14–15	—	.60	1.20
■ **VAMPIRE TALES**			
1	—	.40	.80
2	.25	.75	1.50
■ **WEREWOLF BY NIGHT**			
3–7	—	.40	.80
8–10	—	.30	.60
11–12	—	.25	.50

believe in the supernatural? Well, neither did **Dr. Jericho Drumm** when he first appeared in STRANGE TALES. But when his brother **Daniel** was murdered through voodoo, Jericho sought out Daniel's teacher, **Papa Jambo**, and learned the ways of voodoo himself. Then, accompanied by his brother's spirit, Jericho set out to avenge Daniel's death as Brother Voodoo!

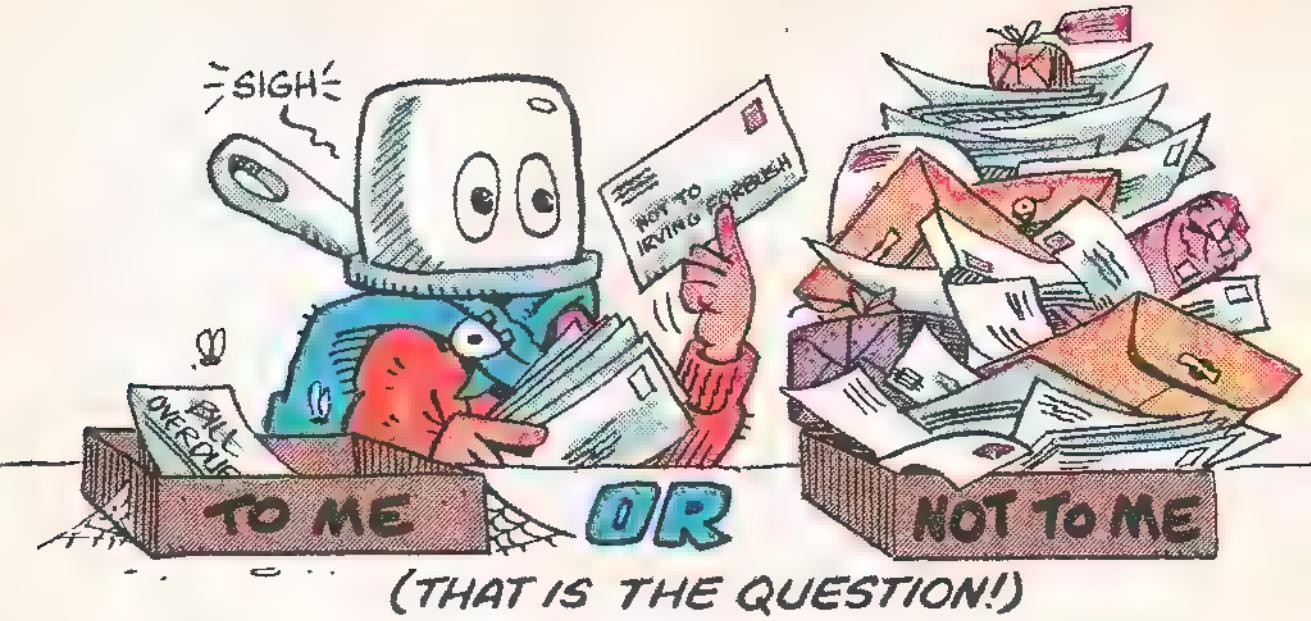
Turning our attention to the goings-on among Marvel's super heroes, it seemed like just about all of them appeared in MARVEL TEAM-UP at some time or another in 1973. It began as **Spider-Man** joined forces with **the Thing** to fight **the Mad Thinker** and **the Puppet Master**, **Thor** to battle **Kryllik the Cruel**, and **the Cat** (better known these days to WEST COAST AVENGERS fans as **Tigra**) to face the menacing **Man-Killer**. And then, Spidey found himself (along with **Iron Man**, **the Human Torch**, **the Inhumans**, and **the Avengers**) thrust into the heart of the Tomorrow War. Thor's old twenty-third century foe, **Zarrko, the Tomorrow Man**, and the Avengers' long-time enemy from the thirtieth century, **Kang the Conqueror**, decided on a fight to the finish to see who would become the ruler of all time. And they didn't care who got caught in the middle! Fortunately, the heroes eventually put a stop to the villains' plans, and things returned to normal for everybody's favorite wall-crawler. Of course, to Spider-Man, "normal" meant battles with **the Werewolf**, **the Grey Gargoyle** (with help from **Captain America**), **Tiger Shark** (at the side of **the Sub-Mariner**), **the Orb** (along with **the Ghost Rider**), and **the Basilisk** (side-by-side with the Kree **Captain Mar-Vell**)

Things were looking pretty good for the ol' web-slinger in MARVEL TEAM-UP, but tragedy lurked in the pages of THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, due to the efforts of writers such as **Gerry Conway** and artists such as **Gil Kane**. The year started off typically enough as Spidey thwarted the plans of a corrupt politician (which wasn't easy since the politician's enforcer was a giant robot called **the Smasher**) and went off to Canada to fight **the Hulk**. But then, things took a turn for the worse. **The Green Goblin** returned, and the Goblin knew Spider-Man's secret identity was Peter Parker. He kidnaped Peter's girlfriend, **Gwen Stacy**, and brought her to the top of the Brooklyn Bridge. When Spidey showed up, the Goblin threw her off the bridge! Spider-Man caught Gwen with his webbing, but it was too late; the shock of the fall had already killed her. Overwhelmed by shock and grief, Spider-Man vowed to kill the Goblin—and he almost did! But when it came down to it, Spidey just couldn't take the life of another. Before he could take the Goblin to jail, the Goblin commanded his flier to ram the wall-crawler and kill him. Spidey ducked, but the Goblin wasn't so lucky; instead, he was impaled on his own flier. Spider-Man left to mourn Gwen, but between fights with **Luke Cage** (who wasn't calling himself Power Man, yet), **the Man-Wolf**, **the Kangaroo**, and **the Vulture** (the third one, no less), he didn't have too much time for mourning.

Death also stalked the pages of THE SUB-MARINER, but not for any of the characters. As the year opened, the series was being written and drawn by **Bill Everett**, the man who created **the Sub-Mariner** in 1939. Bill skillfully led Namor through encounters with **Venus**, the goddess of love (not to mention the star of a comics series in the '50's), **Tamara** (the last survivor of an alien race), the population of New York, and **Doctor Hydro**, a mad environmentalist who abducted planeloads of people (including Namor's old friend, **Betty Dean**) and turned them into amphibians. But then Bill fell ill and had to leave the series. Scripter **Steve Gerber** and artists **Don Heck**, **Don Perlin**, and **Frank Bolle** took over and established a new direction for the series as a sunken ship's load of nerve gas threw Atlantis into suspended animation and robbed Namor of his ability to breathe air. **Reed Richards** designed a new costume for Namor, complete with microcircuitry which would keep him alive on land. Sadly, though, while Namor was embarking on a new beginning, Bill's illness intensified, and he passed away. Bill's death robbed the world of a major talent and a true comics pioneer.

See you next month.

—*Sholly Fisch*



Send your letters to MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE, c/o Marvel Comics Group, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, New York, 10016

Kudos to Rob Hearn of Dartmouth, N.S. CANADA, for contributing that abso-fabu-tively fine title we have gracing this month's letters page. Great going, Rob!

And get going, all you other Marvelites! Get going, that is, on coming up with suggestions for our letters page title and sending 'em in! We use one a month and we don't re-use them unless we forget or get stuck or are threatened or something, so we need lots. And wouldn't you like to see your name in bold print in this here space? sure you would! So what're you waiting for?

Dear MARVELAGEnts,

As I opened MARVEL AGE ANNUAL #2, I was amazed at all the new titles. I already have a comic collection of about 800, but I'd still like to make it even bigger.

THE X-MEN VS. THE AVENGERS, from what I've read, is going to be a gigantic success. THE FALLEN ANGELS (which you can be sure I'll buy) is going to be one of the best selling Limited Series ever. Oh, and by the way, FALLEN ANGELS is a much better name than THE MISFITS, which is so dull.

My favorite comics are THE AVENGERS, THE WEST COAST AVENGERS, X-FACTOR and THE UNCANNY X-MEN (of course). These titles don't include Limited Series or one-shot comics.

In THE AVENGERS, I'd like to know much more about each Avenger. Can you also bring back a lot of the Avengers' old foes? (You've already started that.) How come you haven't made a CAPTAIN MARVEL Limited Series? She's not only my favorite, but most of my comicmates' favorite as well (that is, the ones who are sane). I would also like you to make a Limited Series for the new **Spider-Woman**. This would be the best way to know about her origin, and what happened up to the point of the original SECRET WARS. Can you also make her an Avenger? She just doesn't fit in with **Freedom Force**.

Under WEST COAST AVENGERS in MARVEL AGE ANNUAL #2, **Steve Englehart** said, "Something I would like to do is continue to use **Wanda** and **the Vision**. An obvious concept is for them to join the West Coast Avengers." How can they join the West Coast Avengers if they quit the East Coast Avengers because the government was too hard on them? Don't the West Coast Avengers have the same *boss?*

X-FACTOR's great, but please don't make **Jean Grey** turn into **Phoenix** again. I don't think I could handle that.

Finally, we have come to THE X-MEN. My favorite, or should I say my favorite character before she lost her powers was **Storm**! Please make a giant-sized (64 pages) issue with the **X-Men, X-Factor, the Fallen Angels, the New Mutants**, Freedom Force, **the Hellions** and **the Hellfire Club**. In this issue I'd like a lot of action, hardly any small talk, and somehow, someway give Storm her powers back! I know it's almost impossible to do this, but you guys and gals can handle it. Take all the time you need, a year or so if you must, but I want this to be the best comic ever. I'd like **Chris Claremont** as writer, and **John Romita Jr.** and **Dan Green** as the artists. They did a great job on X-MEN #208. If you need any suggestions on how Storm could get her powers back, just let me know. I have some goodies. I'd also like to know how Spider-Woman and **Spiral** got involved with Freedom Force.

With all this writing I've come to an end, but I'd like to say one more thing. You are the best.

Richie Donato
67 President St.
Staten Island, NY 10314

Thank you too, Richie. It gets kind of hectic, packing as much info as we can into each issue of MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE, not to mention the ANNUALs, and it's nice to know that all our hard work "ain't been in vain for nothin'," as somebody somewhere once said.

Dear Marvel, **Jim Shooter**, everybody (!!!),

Thank you!

Really, thank you, thank you, very very much. I love you! Wow! Marvel is awesome! What am I talking about? That should be obvious—the return and mainstream introduction of Tabitha / "Boom Boom" / Time Bomb. Wowo!!

Let me compose myself a bit. I'm not usually a hyped person. But . . . I'm excited and anxiously looking forward to again seeing Time Bomb, probably the best character Jim Shooter introduced in either SECRET WARS. Don't get me wrong. I'm not in love with the girl or anything. No. It's just that Time Bomb is an excellent character with *vast* potential. Her power is completely unique and could be greatly developed with guidance. Her personality and psyche could be explored deeply and interestingly. I got the feeling that Shooter really meant it when he created her. After seeing her in SECRET WARS II #5, I thought she would appear in more comics, maybe regularly. I felt that she would be an excellent addition to either the Hellions or the New Mutants (which she *tried* to join). I looked forward to this, but she didn't turn up.

Then (this is the good part), the Mutant Report in MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #42 said that X-FACTOR #10 will feature Boom Boom. And then (oh wow!) MARVEL AGE ANNUAL #2 revealed that she will be a part of THE FALLEN ANGELS Limited Series. Please, **Jo Duffy**, DO IT! Put Tabitha in and make her *prominent*. Thank you Marvel, for Time Bomb, and thank you MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE for the announcements. I know you will not let me down.

P. David Hunter
8536 Moniter Circle
Sandy, UT 84092

Glad you're happy, P. David. One thing we can assure you of: THE FALLEN ANGELS is going to be a loud series. Very loud.

Dear **Jim Salicrup**,

I just wanted to tell you I really enjoy MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE. It is one of the most informative magazines at Marvel.

I also have a suggestion for a new Marvel Universe. Instead of having the heroes and villains in it, it would have Marvel's staff of writers, pencilers, editors, etc. . . . I really think it would be a hit with the fans. Please consider having one. Anyways, keep up the great work on MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE.

Ian Taylor
1932 Panay Ct.
San Diego, CA 92105

What, you mean we could do magazines like THE INCREDIBLE EDITORI-AL, WEEZIE & WALT, STRIKEFORCE: CARL POTTS and WEB OF FINGEROTH? Boy, that'd save us a lot of time coming up with character designs—the artists could just draw themselves. But it's so hard getting them away from their drawing boards for lunch—how are we going to make them fight crime?

Oh, we get it . . . you mean a HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL OFFICES, or something like that. Now that's an idea . . . if we can only get them to tell us their true identites . . .

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

I have written this letter as a kind of protest to your answer to "Santa Claus's" third question to you in MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #42. I once read in a G.I. JOE letter column that G.I. JOE isn't part of the Marvel Universe, so the Joes can't team up with ol' **Spidey**, **the F.F.**, etc. *But*, the Transformers *are* part of the Marvel Universe, as proven in TRANSFORMERS #3 (Limited Series), when the Transformers team up with Spidey.

So my question is: How can the Transformers do battle with the Joes in your upcoming series entitled G.I. JOE VERSUS THE TRANSFORMERS?

Since Marvel writes, draws, etc. comics sooooo good, I will attempt to clear up your horrible mistake with an attempt to get a No-prize. The only way G.I. Joe could fight the Transformers is if G.I. Joe was hurled into the Marvel Universe for a short time through a dimensional passageway, like on the TV show. If this happened, or if the Transformers are hurled to the Joes' dimension, then the two teams could fight.

Please print this letter to clear up your problem to "Santa" and all of your other readers, and please say that I get a No-prize!

Scott Morse
2513 Johnson Place
Santa Clara, CA 95050

We've been deluged with letters posing this precise question. And here's the best answer we can come up with:

If you'll recall, Spidey has *also* teamed up with Superman, and the X-Men with the Teen Titans—and those guys sure aren't part of the Marvel Universe. It just works out that every now and then we want to do a very special story that teams up some characters that everyone wants to see team up—and if we have to bend "reality" to do it, well, reality bends.

So are the Joes in the Marvel Universe? No. Are the Transformers in the Marvel Universe? No. Is Spider-Man in the Marvel Universe? Hey, who are you trying to kid? He's just a hoax made up by the Bugle to sell papers.

And sorry, no No-prize, Scott. We haven't straightened it out ourselves yet, and until we do, we've got to declare a moratorium on "Joes in the Marvel Universe" No-prizes.

Out Letter of the Month, commenting on the cover of issue #45, arrived after the issue went off to press but before it came out:

Dear Jim,

I need to take issue with the capsule description of STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI on the cover of MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #45.

The "morituri" in the title and the series concept was derived from the Latin, "Ave, [Mundus]! moritur te salutant"—"Hail, [Earth]! we who are about to die salute thee."

WEBSTER'S NEW TWENTIETH CENTURY UNABRIDGED DICTIONARY (1983) defines life as "something essential to the continued existence of something else; as, freedom of speech is the life of democracy."

Furthermore, it defines sacrifice as, in part, "to give up, destroy, or permit injury to, or forgo (a valued thing [such as life]) for the sake of something of greater value or having a more pressing claim."

With the above in mind, WEBSTERS'S defines morbid as an adjective derived from the Latin "morbidus" which means sickly, diseased; and the Latin noun "morbus," disease:

1. of, having, or caused by disease; unhealthy, diseased.

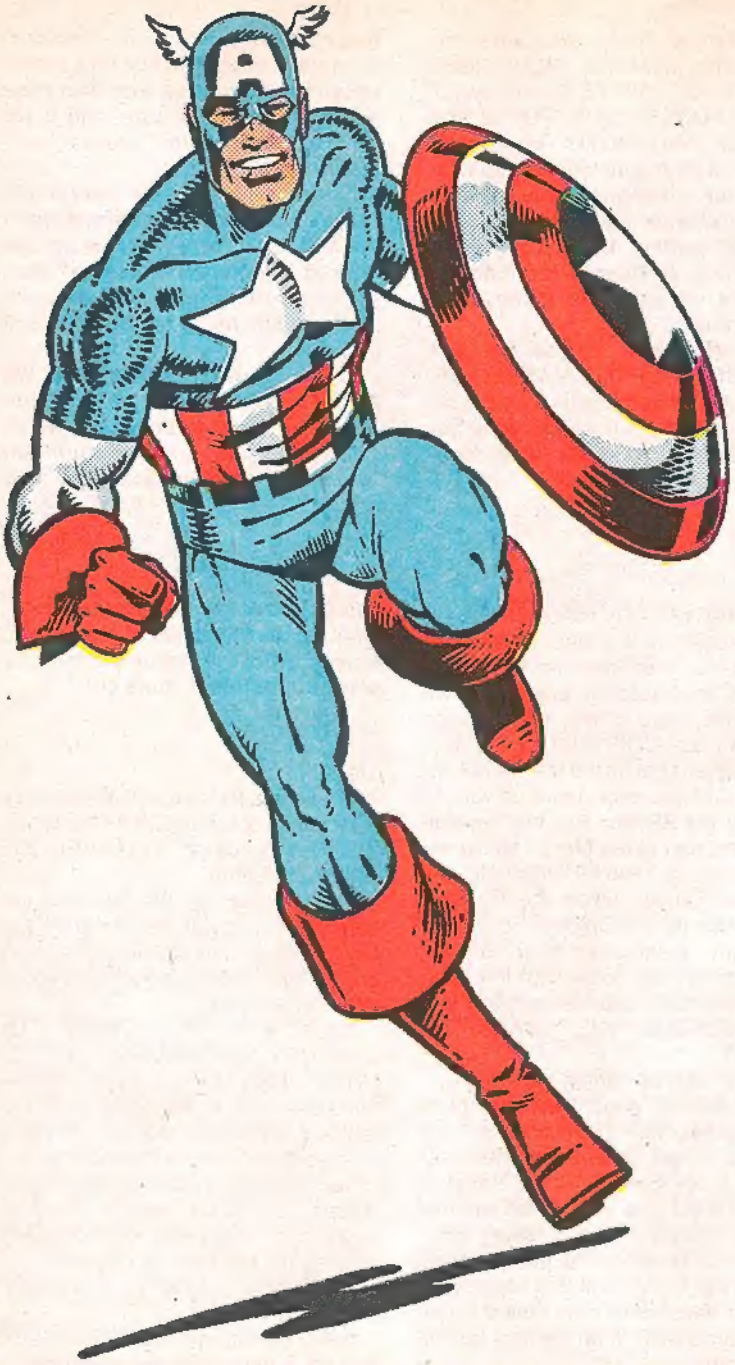
2. resulting from or as from a diseased state of mind; especially, having or showing an unwholesome tendency to dwell on gruesome or gloomy matters.

3. gruesome; grisly; horrible; as, the morbid details of a story.

4. of diseased parts; pathological; as, morbid anatomy.

Syn.—diseased, sick, abnormal, pathological.

Honestly, Jim, if STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI was about "super heroes with a morbid twist . . . ," Peter and I wouldn't be doing it (at least, *I* wouldn't



Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

MEET MISTY is my favorite Marvel comic ever! I thought it was the greatest, and I'm upset that it's over. Are there going to be any more? Please please please say yes!

Josie James
320 Sycamore St.
Waukegan, IL 60657

Well . . . there aren't any plans for more MISTY in the immediate future, Josie. But if you'll cast your eyes to our inside back cover, you'll find an extra treat we cajoled out of MISTY writer/artist/creator Trina Robbins for MEET MISTY's many vocal fans.

Dear Marvel Comics,

I have a question. I would like to know why the Thing is not as strong as Thor, Hercules or even the Hulk. The Thing's strength was increased by cosmic radiation, which is supposed to be the backbone of the multiverse, while the Hulk got zapped with gamma rays (and just a short burst of them, while the Thing took a more lethal dose of cosmic radiation). The entire Fantastic Four should have attributes (endurance, healing factors, etc.) similar to the **Eternals** or **Galactus's** heralds. Thanks, and keep up the good work.

Rick Houston
9307 Derbyshire Rd.
Richmond, VA 23229

Simply because cosmic radiation is the backbone of the multiverse doesn't mean that anyone *affected* by cosmic rays is going to turn out more powerful than anyone else, Rick. And remember, Ben Grimm was affected by cosmic rays through a shielded rocket hull. The shielding was inadequate, but it was there. Bruce Banner was exposed to the full radiation of an exploding gamma bomb (hardly a "short burst") with no shielding at all. He certainly got a tougher dose of radiation than Ben did.

be) because this book is not (as WEBSTER's defines morbid) diseased, unhealthy or pathological; nor is it resulting from a diseased state of mind, having or showing an unwholesome tendency to dwell on gruesome or gloomy matters. The series is about life, sacrifice, and how people cope with death; not about death itself.

We would be guilty of morbidity if we were producing a "death-of-the-month" comic book, but we're not; we recognized early in development that such a book would indeed be considered morbid, so we are doing everything we can to avoid just such an eventuality.

The only synonym for morbid even remotely appropriate to STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI is the word "abnormal," in that the book is indeed not normal, average or typical, and it does vary from the established standard, but it is *not* morbid, so I humbly request that, if possible, the word be removed from the MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE cover.

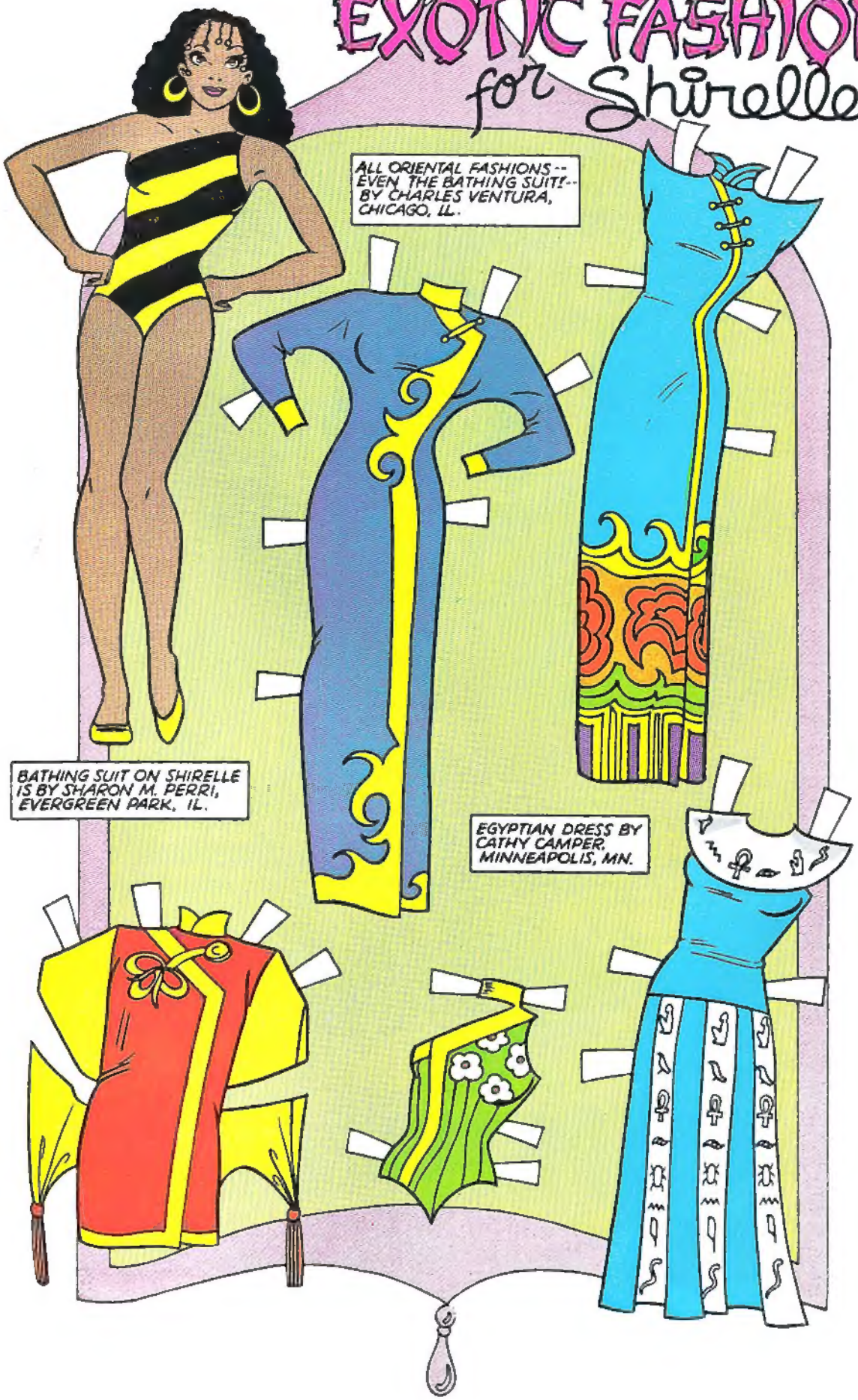
Thank you.

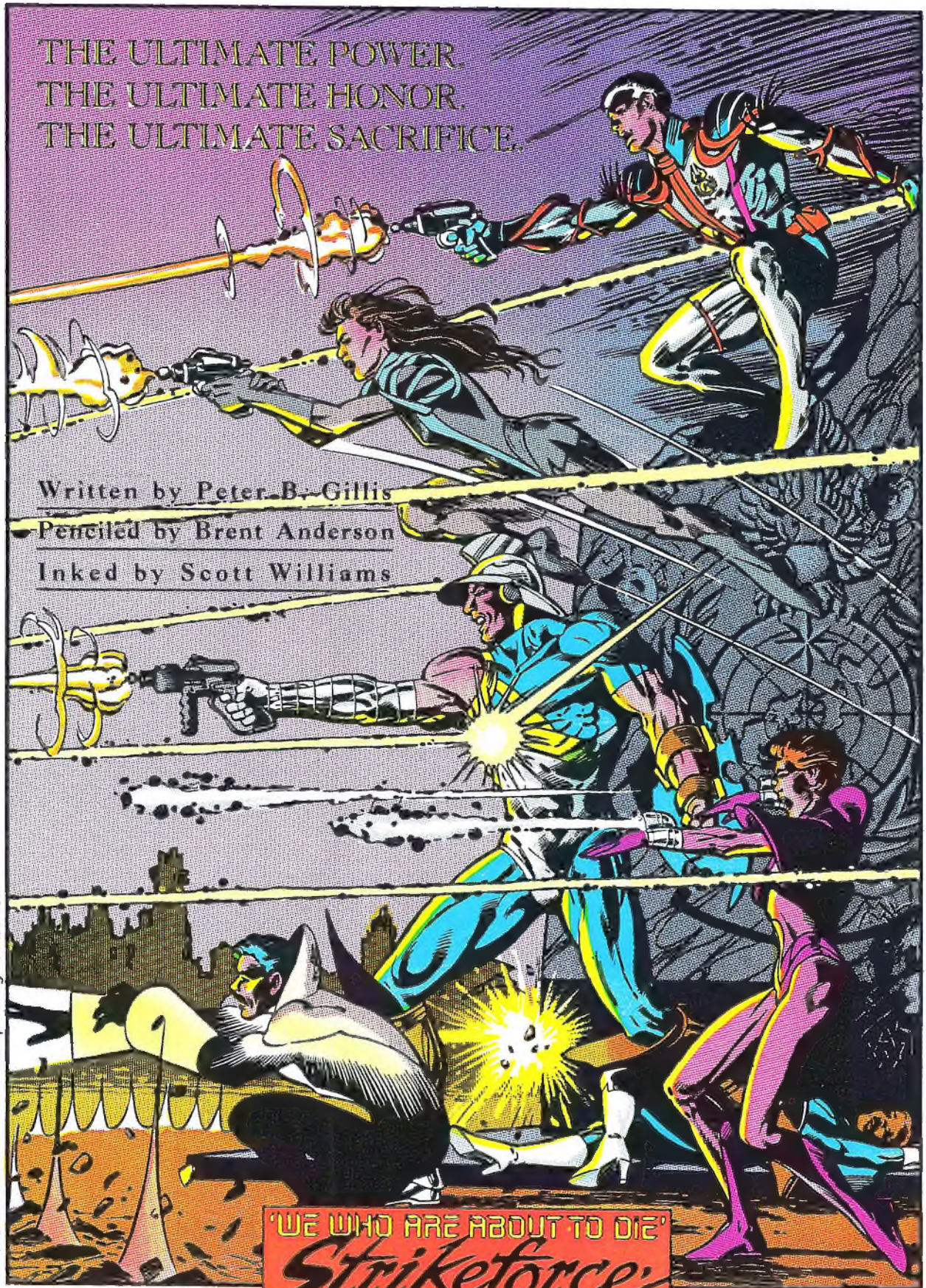
Brent Anderson

As you can no doubt guess, it was too late to make changes on the cover when this letter came in. But we did want to let you know how seriously Marvel creators take their work, and the detail they'll go to to make sure it is presented correctly. Thanks, Brent.

And with that, it's time to ring down the curtain on another MARVEL AGE letters page. It's sad, we know, but all things must pass. Only the thought that next month will bring another MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE, with another letters page, and more wonderful letters to console us. That, and a whole month's worth of Marvel comics!

EXOTIC FASHIONS for Shirelle


ALL ORIENTAL FASHIONS -- EVEN THE BATHING SUIT! -- BY CHARLES VENTURA, CHICAGO, IL.
BATHING SUIT ON SHIRELLE IS BY SHARON M. PERRI, EVERGREEN PARK, IL.
EGYPTIAN DRESS BY CATHY CAMPER, MINNEAPOLIS, MN.



'WE WHO ARE ABOUT TO DIE'

Strikeforce: MORITURI™

FROM MARVEL COMICS™

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